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Simulated chemical attacks test Yokota's response

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UW-Milwaukee topples Tide as tourney tips off

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Plot to kidnap Letterman's son, nanny foiled

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50¢

AF looks into cheating on promotion tests

Spokesman: Up to 20 investigated, including former Misawa NCO

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Baseball steps up to the plate on steroids

Back page



Mark McGwire — the first Major League Baseball player to hit 70 home runs in a season — testifies Thursday at a House Government Affairs Committee hearing looking into the use of steroids among major league players. McGwire said he would not participate in naming fellow players who may have used steroids. He was one of six current and former players to appear in front of the committee, along with commissioner Allen "Bud" Selig.

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Illegal immigrants smuggling: More than 70 illegal immigrants being smuggled in the back of a truck were clearly in trouble, but the driver ignored their cries for help, a woman who accompanied the driver testified.

"They wanted to get out. It was hot," Fatima Holloway said Wednesday at the trial of Tyrone Williams. Her testimony was to continue Thursday.

Williams, 34, a Jamaican citizen who lives in Schenectady, N.Y., is accused of driving the rig and abandoning the trailer at a truck stop near Victoria, about 100 miles southwest of Houston. Nineteen of the immigrants crammed inside the sweltering tractor-trailer died.

Wis. church shootings: As loved ones said goodbye to one of the victims killed at a South Milwaukee church service over the weekend, authorities continued their search for a motive behind the shooting deaths.

Friends and relatives gathered Wednesday at a wake for Richard Reeves, 58, who police said was among the seven killed when Terry Ratzmann opened fire in a hotel conference room. His funeral was scheduled Thursday. Funerals for the other victims were set for Friday and Saturday.

D.C.-area sniper case: A man was indicted Wednesday for allegedly buying a rifle for the Washington, D.C.-area snipers — though not the weapon used in the 2002 random shooting spree.

A federal grand jury indicted Earl L. Dancy Jr., 36, of Tacoma, Wash., on one count of making a false statement in connection with the acquisition of a firearm. He faces up to 10 years in prison if convicted.

On a federal form when Dancy bought a .308-caliber Remington rifle from a Tacoma store, Dancy claimed he intended to use the weapon himself, the U.S. attorney's office said. During the November 2003 trial of John Allen Muhammad, he admitted under oath he bought it for Muhammad.

Martha Stewart's appeal: Perjury charges against a government witness are grounds for a reversal of Martha Stewart's conviction on charges of lying about a stock sale, her lawyer argued before a federal appeals court Thursday.

Lawyer Walter Dellinger argued that — although government ink expert Larry Stewart was subsequently acquitted — the charges he had faced should lead to "virtually automatic reversal" of Martha Stewart's conviction.

Dellinger also said it was unfair of the government to play tapes of interviews with co-defendant Peter Bacanovic when Martha



JULIANA GITTNER/Stars and Stripes

SETTING SAIL: Sailors stand along the bow of the USS Kitty Hawk on Thursday and watch the shore as the carrier leaves Pusan, South Korea. The ship is heading off the coast of South Korea to participate in the training exercise Foal Eagle next week.

Stewart's lawyers had no chance to cross-examine him.

World

Nepal protestors: Riot police arrested about 40 students Thursday who defied a strict government crackdown on street protests and marched through the capital, denouncing King Gyanendra's seizure of power and calling for the restoration of democracy.

Gyanendra seized power on Feb. 1, imposing emergency rule and putting top politicians in jail. The constitutional monarch claimed he dumped the government because of its failure to counter communist insurgents, who have been fighting since 1996 to abolish the monarchy and establish communist rule.

Syrian withdrawal: Syria's army and intelligence agents on Thursday completed the first phase of their pullback to eastern Lebanon and Syria, while a top Lebanese security chief said he and other officials were willing to stand trial to clear allegations of negligence in the assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri.

Syrian and Lebanon agreed earlier this month that Syrian troops and intelligence agents would redeploy in the eastern Bekaa

Valley or withdraw to Syria before the end of the month.

Fischer deportation case: An Icelandic parliamentary committee said Thursday it needed more information from Japan before it could decide whether to grant citizenship to chess genius Bobby Fischer, who is fighting deportation from Tokyo to the United States.

Legislator Gudrun Ogundottir said the citizenship motion would probably be passed by the nine-member committee Thursday, then be placed before Iceland's 63-member parliament, the Althingi.

Fischer, 62, is in a Japanese detention cell awaiting deportation to the United States.

Palestinian truce: Palestinian factions meeting in Cairo agreed Thursday to continue an open-ended truce with Israel as long as certain conditions are met, a participant said.

"The truce will continue but it requires Israel to stop aggression against Palestinians and to release all the Palestinian detainees," Sakhar Habash, a member of the Fatah central committee, the Alhijab.

He said all of the participants had agreed on the truce.

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AF investigating alleged cheating scandal

By LISA BURGESS

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Air Force is facing a suspected cheating scandal involving the Weighted Airman Promotion System test for enlisted airmen, a large part of what determines who will advance in rank and who will fall behind.

"More than 10 and fewer than 20" cases are suspected, according to Capt. David Small, an Air Force spokesman at the Pentagon. He refused to give a more precise number, because investigations are still under way by the Air Force Office of Special Investigations.

The investigations began last May, Small said, and three airmen are facing trial.

The case that has progressed the furthest involves Master Sgt. J. Abdul Rahim Saafir, who is assigned to the 469th Air Base Group Commander's Support Staff at Rhein-Main Air Force Base in Germany.

Saafir, a mission support flight superintendent, has been accused of possessing and distributing controlled WAPS testing material.

In January 2004, Saafir was named U.S.

Ex-Misawa airman among those accused of wrongdoing in testing for promotions

Air Forces in Europe personnel manager of the year, in part because he saved the Air Force more than \$15,000 in travel costs in 2003 by having the enlisted promotion tests held on Rhein-Main instead of Ramstein Air Base, Germany, nearly two hours away.

Saafir was charged Feb. 3 and on March 8 with Article 81, conspiracy, and Article 92, failure to obey a lawful general regulation, according to Capt. Stacy Orlovsky, a 469th ABG spokeswoman.

Brig. Gen. Rosanne Bailey, the 435th Air Base Wing Commander, has appointed an investigating officer under Article 32 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice to investigate the charges, Orlovsky said.

The Article 32 process often is described as the U.S. military's counterpart to the civilian grand jury, although in the military version of the process, the accused service-member also is allowed legal representation.

The other two cases are at Schriever and Peterson Air Force bases in Colorado.

At Schriever, Senior Master Sgt. Horace Jordan of the 50th Comptroller Squadron will face a special court-martial set for March 30, according to spokeswoman Tech. Sgt. Kate Rust.

A special court-martial is more serious than a summary court-martial, but less serious than a general court-martial, which requires an Article 32 process to convene.

Jordan is accused of unspecified actions that "didn't take place here," Rust said.

Jordan was named financial management senior NCO at the year while working in the 38th Comptroller Squadron as a master sergeant at Misawa Air Base in Japan in December 2002, according to a Pacific Air Forces news release dated Dec. 11, 2002.

At Peterson, a first lieutenant was given an Article 15 "in the last few weeks" for

misconduct involving WAPS, according to base spokesman Tech. Sgt. Michael Phillips.

Article 15 "covers several offenses," and "is a tool commanders can use in lieu of court-martial proceedings," Phillips said.

Because an Article 15 is a nonjudicial punishment, the Air Force is not allowed to release more information.

In addition to those three cases, "there are multiple individuals involved across many different bases," Small told Stripes on Thursday.

Until the investigations are complete, there is no way of knowing how many promotions were affected by the suspected cheating, Small said.

But once the investigations and any resulting legal proceedings are complete, Air Force officials will notify any airmen who may have been unfairly affected and provide them with information on how they can be considered for retroactive promotion, according to Ken Schwartz, chief of the Air Force's Military Testing Section in the Air Force Personnel Center's Enlisted Promotions Office, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas.

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Okinawa governor lobbies U.S. to remove Marines

Jon R. Anderson

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Top Okinawa government officials are launching a new campaign in an old fight to get all U.S. Marines off Japan's southernmost island.

Okinawa governor Keiichi Inamine says he is "making a direct new proposal" to the U.S. and Japanese governments as the two nations are reworking the details of their alliance. The proposal also comes as Pentagon leaders are trying to consolidate existing overseas bases and return tens of thousands of forward-based U.S. troops to American soil.

"This is a rare chance and a great opportunity, because the U.S. military is working on its worldwide posture review," Inamine told reporters Wednesday during a lobbying tour of White House, Pentagon, State Department and congressional leaders.

The U.S. blitz comes in the wake of a similar effort by Inamine among top Japanese leaders in Tokyo.

Okinawans have long argued that they've shouldered an unfair proportion of the U.S. presence in Japan. With less than 1 percent of Japan's land mass, the island provides 75 percent of the facilities used by U.S. forces in Japan. That includes some 50,000 troops and family members.

Following the 1955 ratification of a Okinawan schoolgirl by two Marines and a sailor, a 1996 agreement between the two countries was designed to lift some of that burden. The Special Action Committee on Okinawa report, or SACO, centered on moving the Marine Corps' Futenma air station to a new off-shore base. But nearly a decade later, having moved over exactly where the base will go has yielded little progress.

Inamine said he wants to scrap that agreement and shift to some-



JOE GROMELSKI/Stars and Stripes

Okinawa Gov. Keiichi Inamine makes a point during Wednesday's press conference in Washington. Inamine is on a lobbying tour in an attempt to lessen U.S. troop presence on Okinawa.

thing much more comprehensive.

Flanked by Takeshi Onaga, the mayor of Okinawa's capital and largest city, Naha, he said he is pushing a four-point proposal. Inamine wants to:

■ Remove all Marines. Marines occupy about 75 percent of the U.S. facilities there, and local officials say Marines are responsible for most accidents and crimes. Inamine is proposing that

the Okinawa Marine Corps units now making their return to the island from Iraq "don't come back."

■ Reduce noise at Kadena Air Base. Another facet of SACO called reducing noise at the Air Force's main hub in the area, including limiting early morning and late night flights at the base, which is surrounded by homes. Little improvement has been

seen on that front either, said Inamine. More must be done now, he said.

■ Halt construction of a live-fire complex. The Army is building a live-fire complex at Camp Hansen. According to the text of Inamine's proposal, the site is "barely 300 meters (330 yards) away from civilian homes and a national expressway."

■ Rewrite SOFA. The Status of Forces Agreement, which governs the rules U.S. troops must live by in Japan, is long overdue for an overhaul, said Inamine, calling for a "fundamental revision." Forty-five years

after the original SOFA was written, he argues in his proposal "there have been significant changes in the security environment and social conditions ... the SOFA has become inconsistent with the demands of the times."

Mixed response

In Washington, the response was polite, but noncommittal.

"We thanked them for their input," said Pentagon spokesman Navy Lt. Cmdr. Greg Hicks, after Inamine's contingent met with Richard Lawrence, the Defense Department's deputy undersecretary for Asian and Pacific affairs.

Hicks said, however, that any negotiations regarding U.S. presence in Japan would be between the U.S. and Japanese governments — not local officials.

"This is between the policymakers, and we're working with the government of Japan."

Any sweeping changes on Okinawa, however, do not appear on the horizon.

"We remain committed to the steady implementation of SACO," said Hicks.

In Japan, Hatushita Takashima, the top spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said senior leaders are studying Inamine's proposal — and that U.S. and Japanese officials now reworking their alliance "might be options for compromise."

"The bilateral talks are under way with the focus on reducing the burden shouldered by the local communities, including Okinawa, and maintaining deterrence," said Takashima. "As for a request to revise the SOFA, the government stance is to make operational improvements to the agreement, while giving consideration to requests from local communities."

Yoshinori Ohno, Japan's defense minister, told reporters after Inamine's visit to Tokyo on March 8 that moving the Marines off Okinawa must be weighed against regional security needs.

"This is an issue of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, the security of Japan and the security of the Far East," he said. "Therefore, maintaining the deterrence power is very important."

"At the same time, there are calls for reducing the burden of hosting the military presence," he added. "At issue is how to achieve the two goals."

David Allen and Chiyomi Sumida contributed this report from Okinawa. E-mail Jon R. Anderson at: jon.anderson@stripes.osd.mil

"This is a rare chance and a great opportunity, because the U.S. military is working on its worldwide posture review."

Keiichi Inamine
Okinawa governor



T.D. FLACK/Stars and Stripes

Personnel from the 374th Logistical Readiness Squadron inspect cargo Wednesday during an Operational Readiness Exercise at Yokota Air Base, Japan.



T.D. FLACK/Stars and Stripes

Airmen from the 730th Air Mobility Squadron evaluate Master Sgt. Richard Woody, who was "injured" by a simulated bomb blast Wednesday at Yokota's passenger terminal.

Skills for a scary scenario

An Operation Readiness Exercise gauges reactions at Yokota to a chemical attack

BY T.D. FLACK
Stars and Stripes

The bomb blasts, troop deployments and chemical weapon attacks here this week might have been simulated, but the hours of work that went into proving Yokota can operate under attack were anything but pretend.

The 374th Airlift Wing recalled its personnel early Sunday evening — resulting in snaking lines of traffic from the housing areas and a rush for caffeine drinks and snacks at the base stores as the airmen reported for an Operational Readiness Exercise.

Officials said the ORE, which ended Wednesday, was to test how the wing conducts its flying mission in a chemical environment.

Airmen across the base scrambled during extended work shifts to react to scenarios directed by the wing Inspector General's Office.

Squadron members assist the IG as Exercise Evaluation Team, or EET, members, lending valuable experience in developing realistic scenarios and evaluating their co-workers' performance.

One large-scale test came Wednesday afternoon, when ambulances rushed to a stop near a large, green tent in front of the 374th Medical Group's hospital. Medical personnel and the patients — victims of a chemical attack — were clad in nuclear, biological and chemical protective suits.

According to Col. Steve Shaffer, medical group director of organizational compliance, the 19-person decontamination team "removes or neutralizes, to the extent possible, nuclear, biological and chemical agents on wartime casualties prior to being admitted to a military treatment facility."

He said the team provides triage, basic life support and wound management during decontamination while administering nerve agent antidotes.

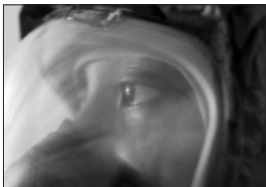
Master Sgt. Janet Lightburn, part of the 374th's evaluation team, thought the personnel were "doing very well" in the exercise. She said they train monthly to run the decontamination team.

Across the flight line, Staff Sgt. Everardo Armendariz was busy augmenting the 374th Logistical Readiness Squadron, where he works as a cargo controller during both in exercises and the real world.

The squadron processes equipment and personnel leaving Yokota on deployments and was one of the ORE's focal points, base officials said.

Rows of cargo lined the staging areas outside Building 400 and squadron airmen scrutinized the manifests, ensuring the right equipment would get on the ORE plane and hit the right destination.

The ORE was the first time Armendariz has "seen how this part of the machine works," he said, point-



VAL GEMPPIS/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Airman Michelle Graves, a member of the 74th Medical Group waits for "patients" Wednesday at a decontamination tent.

ing to the gear and C-130 cargo planes. He said it gave him "a new perspective on how things work."

Some units, such as the 730th Air Mobility Squadron, created additional internal scenarios to help sharpen their skills.

Master Sgt. Robert Martel, EET chief with the 730th, evacuated his airmen from their squadron work areas, including the passenger terminal, on Wednesday after a bomb threat was received. When they were released back to the terminal, they discovered two bomb-blast victims on the floor.

The airmen immediately began "treating" Master Sgt. Richard Woody and 1st Lt. Cynthia Flores — squadron volunteers wearing realistic wound kits simulating broken bones, burns and, in Woody's case, exposed intestines.

Tech. Sgt. Dominic Marza, also part of the 730th's EET, said the airmen made a few mistakes during the training, "but that's what it's for."

"They were really proactive and really treated this as if it were real," Marza said. "The majority of them are new, so that's why we're doing this training."

Airman 1st Class Mike Hendry, who's been in the Air Force about seven months, thought the scenario was effective.

"My initial reaction was, 'wow, there's a guy with his guts hanging out,'" he said. That was followed quickly by "How do we keep this guy alive?"

According to Col. Michael Koster, 374th Inspector General, OREs "make sure the wing and tenants are prepared for any contingency or crisis."

He said having well-trained airmen allows the wing to "pick up at a moment's notice" like it did in providing tsunami relief in South Asia, earthquake relief in Niigata, Japan, and typhoon relief in Guam.

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T.D. FLACK/Stars and Stripes

Personnel from the 374th Medical Group treat "victims" of a simulated chemical weapons attack on Yokota Air Base.



VAL GEMPPIS/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Members of the 374th Medical Group help a "patient" process through a decontamination tent.

Congress: Base closure costs 'a charade'

BY LEO SHANE III
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — House members angry over upcoming base closures lashed out at Air Force officials on Wednesday for the up-front costs expected and under-estimated savings promised in the Base Realignment and Closure process.

The proposed 2006 defense budget includes \$2.5 billion in closure costs related to the BRAC decisions, even though no bases have yet been publicly identified as scheduled to be closed. Another \$5.7 billion in expenses is expected in



Teets

2007.

In addition, the 2006 budget includes about \$377 million in costs associated with the 1995 BRAC process, which incurred Rep. Neil Abernethy, D-Hawaii.

"This is 10 years later and the DOD is still asking for transition money to finance these savings," he said during a House Armed Services hearing.

"It's embarrassing when I go home to have to say there's not a single base secretaries can name that needs to be closed, but there's 24 percent base capacity that has to be gotten rid of."

President Bush taps 8 to review base closings

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush on Tuesday nominated eight people with ties to defense to serve on the commission charged with closing U.S. military bases.

The president previously nominated former Veterans Affairs Secretary Anthony Principi to lead the nine-member independent commission. Congress authorized the fifth round of closures last year. If confirmed by the Senate, the Base Realignment and Closure Commission will review a list of closures the Pentagon must propose by May.

The president nominated:

■ James H. Bilbray of Nevada, a former Army reservist and a former congressman who served on international relations, armed services and intelligence committees.

■ Philip Coyle of California, a senior adviser to the Center for Defense Information and a former assistant defense secretary.

■ Harold W. Gehman Jr. of Virginia, a retired Navy admiral and former NATO supreme allied commander.

■ James V. Hansen of Utah, a Navy veteran and former congressman who served on the armed services committee.

■ James T. Hill of Florida, a retired Army general and former combat commander of the U.S. Southern Command.

■ Claude M. Kicklighter of Georgia, a retired Army lieutenant general and the assistant secretary for policy and planning at the Veterans Affairs Department.

■ Samuel Knox Skinner of Illinois, a former Army reservist and one-time chief of staff and secretary of transportation under President George H.W. Bush.

■ Sue Ellen Turner of Texas, a retired Air Force brigadier general who is a member of the American Battle Monuments Commission.

There's a charade going on here."

This year's process marks the fifth time since 1988 the Defense Department has looked to reduce its base holdings and costs, designed to make the military more efficient.

The list of bases affected is to be released May 16, though changes to that list could be made over the summer.

When pressed by committee members to name an Air Force base that could easily be eliminated, Air Force Secretary Peter Teets declined to pick a facility but defended the process.

"There is a straightforward,

well-structured analysis going on," he said. "In any kind of restructuring activity ... it requires upfront investment to achieve annual savings."

Teets said he has started to hear possible closure scenarios but "no decisions have been made."

Defense officials estimate the earlier BRAC rounds have saved about \$29 billion in reduced maintenance costs and profits from land sales.

Earlier in the week Phillip Grone, deputy undersecretary of defense for installations and environment, said the 24 percent ex-

cess capacity figure is only an estimate and will not require that one in four bases be closed.

However, when pressed by House members, he also admitted the 24 percent figure is not a maximum either and that the study could recommend closing a higher number of facilities as well.

Grone added that officials are taking into account the large number of servicemembers expected to return to U.S. bases from deployment abroad as military officials draw down troop totals in Europe and the Pacific areas.

E-mail Leo Shane at: shane@stripes.osd.mil

DOD: Early retirement rules need to be set

BY LEO SHANE III
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Defense Department officials want new early-retirement rules — some incentives and some mandatory exits — for all four services as a long-term tool to help force efficiency.

"The request to Congress comes just days after Marine and Army officials announced they missed recruiting goals for February. But Charles Abell, deputy undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, said the two issues are not connected."

"These are for force-shaping," Abell told a House Armed Services subcommittee on Wednesday. "It is not about getting rid of folks. It's about keeping the right folks and right skill and experience mix."

The proposals all are aimed at 20-plus year military personnel, especially those in outdated or overpopulated specialties. They include:

■ A buyout bonus or annuity for enlisted members.

■ High-year tenure caps for officers, to apply to either certain specialties or across the board.

■ An early-retirement board — described by Abell as a "last resort" measure — that would review senior officers' skills and have the authority to hand out involuntary retirements.

Abell said all four proposals likely aren't needed to achieve the force-shaping goals. If the new high-tenure caps are approved by Congress, the early retirement board would likely be redundant.

And he acknowledged that many of the proposals will be unpopular among career military who would be forced out of their posts.

"It is about the appropriate management of human capital," he said. "And we've found that when you have these authorities out there, people start making their own decisions ahead of time."

"This is just putting more tools in the toolbox," he said.

Abell said all four services have requested the tools, though the Navy and Air Force are more likely to use the authority in the near future.

Air Force officials have pledged to drop their end strength by about 7,000 airmen by June 1, and are scheduled to trim another 2,500 in 2006. Meanwhile, Navy officials plan to reduce their sailor totals by more than 13,000 next year.

Meanwhile, the Marines plan on adding 3,000 more personnel in 2006, and the Army is scheduled to add about 30,000 soldiers over the next several years.

E-mail Leo Shane at: shane@stripes.osd.mil

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Postcard blitz

TOKYO — The U.S. Embassy in Tokyo has received hundreds of postcards protesting unconfirmed Japanese media reports that the U.S. Army's I Corps Headquarters may relocate to Camp Zama, Japan, according to embassy officials.

A group consisting of city councilors and residents from Yama and Sagamihara cities, who oppose the alleged plans, are selling postcards addressed to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld in care of the embassy stating that the troops are not welcome, according to Tokio Kaneko, the group's director general and Sagamihara city councilman.

"The contents of the postcards were sent to the Pentagon," said an Embassy spokesman. U.S. Forces Japan officials had no comment.

The stamped postcards state that the sender opposes moving I Corps Headquarters, based at Fort Lewis, Wash., to Camp Zama — that "Camp Zama must be returned to local people." The cards have a space to write messages. The group decided to encourage people to send postcards in response to Rumsfeld's remark that the troops should be located where wanted, welcomed and needed, Kaneko said.

The cards are sold for 100 yen — about \$1. The price covers ex-

penses and the group's campaigns, organizers said. They said they have sold about 5,000 postcards in the past three months — half the 10,000 they hope to sell.

U.S. military officials have said in the past that no specific plans exist for moving any units to Japan.

Talent show auditions

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Auditions for the Nile C. Kinnick Senior Class Council talent show are scheduled for next week at the high school forum on the first floor.

Elementary and middle school students can audition March 22 and high school students March 23. Both auditions will be held from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

The talent shows are planned for April 19 and 20 in the Benny Decker Theater. Top place winners will be awarded cash prizes.

Bowling for the green

A "St. Patrick's Irish Sweeper" is scheduled for 4 p.m. Saturday at Tomodachi Lanes on Yokota Air Base, Japan. A release from the base described it as a four-game, nine-pin, no-top, no-skip, no-spare "scratch singles tournament."

Sign-up is at 3:30 p.m. and costs \$15 for each bowler. The top three will receive cash prizes.

From staff reports

Army manual to clarify tactics for interrogations

By TOM BOWMAN
The Baltimore Sun

WASHINGTON — The Army is putting the finishing touches on a new interrogation manual that will specifically prohibit the harsh practices that have come to light since the Abu Ghraib prison scandal, officials said. It will also highlight international treaties on humane treatment of detainees and require more oversight by commanders.

The new training manual, expected to be finished in the next two months, will specifically prohibit methods including sleep deprivation, confinement to a darkened cell, stripping prisoners and the use of police dogs, said Thomas A. Gandy, director of counterintelligence and human intelligence for the Army.

Those tactics were approved by senior Pentagon officials and top military officers, though some were later rescinded after com-

plaints by military lawyers. And while the methods were not included in the 13-year-old Army interrogation manual, neither were they ever specifically prohibited, leaving interrogators a great deal of leeway.

"The techniques are roughly the same" in the new manual as in the old one, Gandy said in an interview at his Pentagon office. "What's changed is you've got a very, very controlled environment for interrogations."

The various investigations into the prisoner-abuse scandal clearly showed that some military interrogators were uncertain what constituted improper behavior. Some soldiers said they didn't see abuse, said Gandy, a curly West Point graduate. "But we said, 'What about the naked guys?'"

Gandy said while the new Army training procedures have not yet been released, military intelligence soldiers already are being trained on its principles, which he said follow the Geneva Conventions.

Gandy said that includes no physical or mental torture, or any form of coercion, slapping, humiliation, striking or threatening.

The point of interrogation effort is to develop a rapport with the detainee and glean "actionable intelligence" — fresh information that can ideally prevent a bombing or reveal the whereabouts of a top insurgent or terrorist financier. "It's always been a mixed game, not a physical game," said Gandy.

Specific tactics will be carefully laid out in a classified training circular that will go to interrogators and other intelligence officials in September. Gandy said that to avoid tipping off current and future detainees, the specifics will not be made public.

"The theory is keep them uncertain about their future," said Gandy, who served in a variety of military intelligence assignments from Germany to Central America.

Some tactics, such as demonstrations of force, will still be allowed with limits. For example, an interrogator can throw items — a chair or a book — against a wall to rattle a detainee and encourage him to talk. "But what I won't do is throw it by your head," Gandy explained. "One's a threat, one's a demonstration."

Some in Congress are arguing there's been too much focus on stamping out aggressive interrogation tactics and not enough on picking up actionable intelligence. Sen. Jim Talent, a Missouri Republican, said at the week that one of the tactics rejected by officials involved mild non-injurious physical contact, such as grabbing and poking in the chest.

"If our guys want to poke somebody in the chest to get the name of a bomb maker so they can save the lives of Americans, I'm for it," he said. "Boy, at a certain point we have to introduce the use of proportion."



LEO SHANE/Stars and Stripes

Army Maj. Tammy Duckworth, who lost both legs in an RPG attack in Iraq in November, speaks with Sen. Daniel Akaka, D-Hawaii, before testifying to the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee on Thursday. At right is her husband, Capt. Bryan Bowsley.

Amputee seeks to make recovery, return easier

By LEO SHANE III
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Weeks after losing both legs in an ambush in Iraq last November, Maj. Tammy Duckworth told her counselors at Walter Reed Army Medical Center she wanted to return to flying Black Hawk helicopters.

On Thursday, she spoke before a Senate panel on ways lawmakers and the Army can make achieving that goal — and helping all of the injured soldiers from the global war on terror — a little easier.

"No one laughed at me, no one told me I was insane," she said. "There have been soldiers ahead of me who were allowed to stay in, and they told me about them."

"But there's no counselor who's saying, 'Here's what you need to do next.' You really have to make an effort if you're injured and want to stay in (the service)."

Thursday's hearing before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee was designed to review successes and problems with post-injury care and rehabilitation.

Officials from the Government Accountability Office noted that while systems have improved the Defense Department needs to better monitor servicemembers to ensure they are receiving the care they need and are aware of the transition programs available.

Duckworth, a Hawaii native who was serving with the Illinois National Guard, said she would like to see new technologies such as better prosthetics and wheelchairs — available to more soldiers and more care centers, and better job counseling service-

es for injured veterans who can't or don't want to return to duty.

"There is also room for improvement in the hand-holding process," she said. "A VA representative was speaking to my husband as I was regaining consciousness. But as you go on, you meet so many people and get so many business cards, it can be hard to sort through. There needs to be a checklist of things to look for."

Several senators expressed concerns about soldiers being assigned to care centers too far from family and friends. Sen. John Ensign, R-Nev., said his

major concern is not so much with the level of care now "but in two years, three years, are we going to continue that?"

David Hodison, a counselor with the Hodison (Wis.) Veterans Center, said he worries that many troops, both those injured and those who believe they've returned unaffected, don't understand the medical benefits available upon their return.

The problem, he said, is that many don't focus on information sessions presented to them because of the excitement of being home and the anticipation of reuniting with their families.

E-mail Leo Shane at: shane@stripes.osd.mil

'We don't do torture,' Goss says

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — CIA Director Porter Goss on Thursday defended U.S. interrogation practices amid ongoing criticism that Americans' treatment of prisoners amounts to torture.

Testifying before the Senate Armed Services Committee, Goss said that professional in-



Goss

terrogation has been a "useful and necessary way to obtain information that saves innocent lives and protects combat

forces."

"The U.S. government does not engage in or condone torture," Goss said.

Sen. John McCain, a former prisoner of war in Vietnam, said he was concerned about what he sees as a lack of policy on prisoners.

Goss said he believes there is a policy in the intelligence community, and where there is any uncertainty officials err on the side of caution.

"We don't do torture," Goss said.

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Pastor Warren Webster

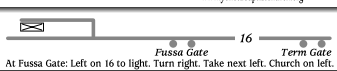
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Sunday School	1000	Mens Prayer Breakfast	1st Sat
Morning Service	1100	Ladies Meeting	1st Sat
Evening Service	1800		
Monday		Saturday, March 19, 2005	
Faith Bible Institute	1830	Revival Cottage Prayer Meeting	6-7 p.m.
Tuesday		Revival 3-10 April	
Soul Winning & Visitation	1830		
Wednesday			
Evening Service & Prayer Mtg	1900		
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At Fussa Gate: Left on 16 to light. Turn right. Take next left. Church on left.

Shiites, Kurds make progress on coalition

Sides continue to discuss military, territory control

BY PATRICK QUINN
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Kurdish and Shiite politicians said Thursday they made headway in solving new disagreements in their deal to form a coalition government, nearly seven weeks after Iraqis took to the polls, but it remained unclear when that new government would be announced.

The talks came after Iraqi legislators were sworn in Wednesday as members of the 275-seat National Assembly, vowing to uphold freedom and democracy two years after the fall of Saddam Hussein.

Thursday's discussions focused on whether to allow the Kurdish peshmarga militia to remain in Kurdistan as part of the Iraqi security services and army, and on setting a timetable for the Kurds to assume control of oil-rich Kirkuk and allow the return of its nearly 100,000 refugees. Those conditions were included in an interim law that serves as a preliminary constitution.

"Negotiations were very constructive and the differences in the interim law and peshmarga were solved. We have agreed that some peshmarga will join the Kurdistan police and some will be part of the Iraqi army, with the same equipment and salaries and take orders from the defense ministry in Baghdad," said Azad Jundiyan, a spokesman for the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan — the political party of Jalal Talabani, who probably will become Iraq's next president.

"I think that the new government will be announced on March 26 after the end of Nowruz [the Persian new year]," he said.



Iraqis look over a car that was damaged in an engagement after U.S. troops came under fire Thursday in Ramadi, Iraq, according to witnesses. A young girl standing nearby was injured and rushed to a local hospital, the witnesses said.

The interim constitution has no set time limit on forming the government after the National Assembly convenes. But once it elects a president with a two-thirds majority, a prime minister must be chosen within two weeks.

Earlier, a member of the Shiite-dominated United Iraqi Alliance said there was agreement on issues such as the peshmarga, and more talks would be held.

"The army units in Kurdistan will be mixed and follow the orders of the central government. As for the police force they will be formed from the people of Kurdistan," Ali al-Dabagh said.

President Bush called the session a "bright moment" for Iraq but added there was no timetable

for withdrawing U.S. troops.

Also Thursday, insurgents fired a mortar at a central Baghdad hotel housing Western journalists, but hotel employees said the round caused minor damage and no injuries.

Police near the southern city of Basra discovered the bodies of three men and one woman whose hands were bound and who were shot in the head. Danish troops blocked off the road around the area, and the identities of the four were unclear.

The U.S. military said it had rescued a hostage and detained two Iraq men during a raid late Wednesday near Beiji, 155 miles north of Baghdad. The statement did not identify the hostage fur-

ther, saying only that he had been a "kidnap victim."

In Kirkuk, gunmen late Wednesday shot dead a police brigadier who was head of the northern city's criminal investigations department, said Kirkuk police chief Maj. Gen. Torhan Abdul Rahman.

Also Wednesday, a U.S. soldier died in a roadside bomb blast south of Baghdad, the military said, while a car bomb northeast of the capital killed four Iraqis and injured 15.

Meanwhile, outgoing U.S. Ambassador John Negroponte flew out of Iraq on Thursday after a nearly nine-month stint to return to the United States, the U.S. Embassy said. Charge d'affaires James F. Jeffrey will assume re-

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Wednesday, at least 1,517 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,156 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department. The figures include four military civilians.

The British military has reported 86 deaths; Italy, 20; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, eight; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Kazakhstan and Latvia one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,379 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 1,047 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

Since the start of U.S. military operations in Iraq, 11,285 U.S. servicemen have been wounded, according to a Defense Department tally released March 8. There was no update this week.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ A U.S. soldier died Wednesday of injuries from an explosion south of Baghdad.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ None reported.

responsibility for the vacant post temporarily.

Negroponte has been nominated by Bush to be the U.S. director of national intelligence.

Bomb kills five, injures 32 in Afghanistan

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — A bomb exploded near a taxi carrying women and children in the southern city of Kandahar on Thursday, killing at least five people and wounding 32, while visiting Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said the United States erred by not doing more for Afghanistan after the Soviets withdrew in 1989.

Police blamed Taliban-led militants for the attack that hit the passing taxi, a roadside restaurant and other bystanders in downtown Kandahar, but a purported Taliban spokesman denied responsibility. Rice was in the capital, Kabul, about 280 miles to the north, at the time.

The attack broke a relative lull in violence in Afghanistan and could shake U.S. military confidence that the resistance by Taliban militants is fading.

President Hamid Karzai condemned the attack as a terrorist act by "enemies of Afghanistan," but insisted security was improving.



An unidentified family member of a bomb blast victim mourns outside the local hospital Thursday in Kandahar, Afghanistan. The Taliban denied involvement in the blast.

However, he said Afghan parliamentary elections originally scheduled for May will be delayed until September, nearly four years after the fall of the Taliban regime.

Rice said the United States would support Afghanistan as it prepares for the vote and called its re-emergence from years of war an inspiration.

American forces in Kandahar held cordon off the area around the attack in a busy commercial district.

Mullah Hakim Latif, who claims to speak for the Taliban, denied the movement was behind the attack. In a phone call to The Associated Press, he described the victims as "innocent people of Afghanistan."

Denmark's troops will stay in Iraq, PM says

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Denmark will likely keep its 530 troops in Iraq until the country's nascent armed forces and police are capable of taking over security, Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen said Thursday.

On a surprise visit to Baghdad, Fogh Rasmussen said his country and other NATO nations would help train Iraqi forces to help lay the groundwork for an eventual withdrawal of multinational troops.

"Denmark will assist the Iraqi people in different ways, in ensuring security and stability, in training of security forces, in reconstruction and economic development," he said.

Denmark has been a staunch supporter of the U.S.-led efforts in Iraq, and Danish lawmakers will in June decide whether to extend the country's mission in the country for another six months.

The country has 530 troops stationed in the southern Iraqi city of Basra as part of a roughly 170,000-troop coalition made up mostly of U.S. troops.

IN THE WORLD

Rice: Pakistan on 'a democratic path'

BY ANNE GEARAN

The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on Thursday called on Pakistan to continue down "a democratic path" that will lead to free and fair elections in 2007, but also praised the nation's military president for his courage in the war on terrorism.

This is not the Pakistan of Sept. 11. It is not even the Pakistan of 2002," Rice said at a news conference.

Rice declined to comment directly on whether President Gen. Pervez Musharraf, who seized power in a 1999 coup, should give up his control of the armed forces and become a civilian leader. But she did say that Washington took democratic progress seriously.

We did talk about the need for democratic reforms in Pakistan," Rice said. "We continue to work with Pakistan and we look forward to the evolution of a democratic path toward elections in 2007."



U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, right, addresses a joint news conference Thursday with Pakistan's Foreign Minister Khurshid Kasuri at Foreign Ministry in Islamabad, Pakistan.
Rice praised the nation's military president for his courage in the war on terrorism.

AP

ward to the evolution of a democratic path toward elections in 2007."

Rice lauded Pakistan for its help in the war on terror, and for helping promote stability in neighboring Afghanistan. Al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden is believed to be hiding along the border with Afghanistan.

Musharraf earlier this week said his forces had come close to catching bin Laden last year, but that the trail has since grown cold. Pakistan has handed over hundreds of other suspects to the United States, including several senior al-Qaida leaders.

Rice met with Musharraf and Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz on Wednesday, before heading to Afghanistan for a whistlestop visit.

Rice — who has already visited India — returned to Pakistan Thursday afternoon for meetings with her counterpart, Foreign Minister Khurshid Kasuri, and

other leaders.

Kasuri strongly defended his country's democratic credentials, saying Pakistan has the freest media in Asia, a significant number of women in government and takes extra precaution to defend the rights of minorities.

During her trip to Afghanistan, Rice praised Afghan efforts to clamp down on the heroin trade and Afghan President Hamid Karzai predicted drug production will drop significantly this year.

In a March 4 report, the State Department said that more than three years after installing a pro-U.S. government, Afghanistan has been unable to contain opium poppy production and is on the verge of becoming a narcotics state.

Rice also applauded Afghan steps toward democracy, including presidential elections that marked the first time many Afghans had ever cast votes and said the United States will not abandon the country.

South Korea blasts Japan's claim to islets

BY BURT HERMAN

The Associated Press

SEOUL — South Korea on Thursday blasted Japan's territorial claim to a disputed group of islets and vowed to defend its sovereignty, while media reports said South Korean hackers may have targeted the Japanese Foreign Ministry's Web site at that dispute.

The developments come during a week in which the territorial dispute over the rocky outcroppings — called Dokdo in Korea and Takeshima in Japan — escalated to the point where two South Korean protesters cut off their fingers and one tried to leap into a bonfire.

Temper flared after a local Japanese assembly designated a special day to commemorate Tokyo's claim to the uninhabited islets.

Though the measure was only symbolic, it stirred deep-rooted Korean sentiments against Japan. Japan ruled the Korean Peninsula as a colony from 1910 until its World War II defeat in 1945.

The islets are surrounded by rich fishing grounds. South Korea keeps a small detachment of police on the islands, effectively controlling them, and said Wednesday it would open them to more visitors.

After South Korea's National Security Council met to discuss the dispute, Unification Minister Chung Dong-yung read a nationally televised statement saying the issue goes beyond who owns the islets.

"The recent series of actions by Japan makes us wonder whether Japan has an intention to coexist with its neighbors as a peaceful force in Northeast Asia," Chung said. "This is not just an issue of territorial rights but an action tantamount to denying the history of Korea's liberation and justifying Japan's past invasion of Korea."

South Koreans have burned Japanese flags and shouted insults in daily protests, which continued Thursday at the Japanese Embassy in central Seoul. In previous days, a man jumped into a fire in an ap-



South Korean war veterans burn Japanese flags during a rally in front of Japanese Embassy in Seoul. The veterans, wearing headbands reading "Protect Dokdo," are opposed to Japan's claims over the disputed islets, known as Dokdo. The volcanic islets, located about 55 miles east of South Korea's Ullung Island, are known as Takeshima in Japan.

AP

parent attempt to burn himself but was stopped by police, and two demonstrators each cut off a finger.

Japan's Foreign Ministry said Thursday its official Web site was attacked by unknown hackers sending massive amounts of data to the server, partially disabling it.

Officials were investigating but that there was no indication the hackers had accessed sensitive data, a spokeswoman said.

Kyodo News agency, citing a government source, reported that there was unconfirmed information showing that a South Korean Web site was claiming responsibility.

U.S. won't criticize China's human rights

BY ALEXANDER G. HIGGINS

The Associated Press

GENEVA — The Bush administration will not propose a U.N. resolution critical of China's human rights policy this year because of recent "positive steps" by Beijing, U.S. officials said Thursday.

The decision removes one of the major flash points of the annual six-week session of the 53-nation U.N. Human Rights Commission, which began Monday.

"In the past year China has taken several steps which we have been seeking in some cases for many years, and accordingly we've decided not to table a resolution on China considering these positive steps," one said.

The officials, from the American mission to U.N. organizations in Geneva, said U.S. representatives advised other delegations of the decision Thursday morning. They spoke on condition of anonymity.

The announcement came more than two weeks after the U.S. State Department's annual human rights survey accused China's communist government of persecuting dissidents and religious activists and torturing and mistreating prison inmates.

China fired back by issuing a report denouncing the United States for offenses ranging from allowing crime and poverty to abuse to abuses at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq.

The U.S. officials did not elaborate on the reason for the decision but said more details were expected to be disclosed in Washington later Thursday, when Assistant Secretary of State Michael Kozak briefs the House International Relations Committee. They stressed that the United States remained concerned about China's human rights record, but they knew of no other country planning to offer a resolution on China.

Taiwan to march against China

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador — Taiwanese Vice President Annette Lu on Wednesday announced a massive public march to protest China's authorization of the use of military force against Taiwan during a visit to El Salvador.

China enshrined into law on Monday its frequent threats to attack Taiwan if the self-ruled island pursues formal independence.

"On March 26 we will have a gigantic demonstration through the streets of Taipei, whose purpose will be to call the world's at-

tention and demonstrate that Taiwan is a country that wants and loves peace and liberty," Lu said during a news conference.

Lu made her comments during a four-day visit to El Salvador on a trip aimed at reaching out to long-standing allies in Central America.

Though democratic Taiwan is self-governing, a communist Beijing insists the island is part of China. The two sides split amid civil war in 1949 and Beijing has since refused to have ties with any government that recognizes Taiwan.

From The Associated Press

Dublin revelers relish St. Patrick's parade

BY SHAWN POGATCHNIK

The Associated Press

DUBLIN, Ireland — An estimated 500,000 people watched Ireland's major St. Patrick's Day parade Thursday, a Dublin extravaganza of artistic skills that featured towering butterflies and teens dressed as mad professors.

The parade, the centerpiece of a five-day festival culminating this weekend with Europe's biggest annual fireworks show, involved about 3,000 locals in brightly colored costumes and a half-dozen marching bands from Ireland and the United States.

Several floats had to be shortened, or partly deflated, so that they could clear the overhead power lines of Dublin's new light rail network.

It cuts across O'Connell Street, the capital's major thoroughfare, where crowds stood 10 deep to watch the passing spectacle.

While the midday parade passed in a jovial, family-friendly atmosphere, police were braced for probable alcohol-fueled trouble in the afternoon and evening.

The aftermath of last year's Dublin parade turned ugly, with police arresting 47 people for disorderly behavior, vandalism or assault. Downtown Dublin streets in the evening featured crowds of drunken youths hurling abusive language and shuffling with one another.

Michael Conaghan, Dublin's lord mayor, led this year's parade, but expressed disappointment that liquor stores had refused his request to stay closed until 6 p.m.

He said youths' easy purchase of alcoholic drinks for drinking in the street had produced "an air of menace" after last year's parade.

Dublin's public hospitals also predicted they would suffer their worst overcrowding of the year this weekend, with 12-hour waits likely for non-emergency cases.

Most of Ireland's leaders missed the Dublin festivities as usual in favor of promoting Irish interests overseas.

Prime Minister Bertie Ahern was the guest of President Bush while President Mary McAleese was touring Japan.

"As our global Irish family and friends celebrate this day through the expression of our culture and heritage in our language, literature, games, poetry, music and dance, I hope that the legacy of St. Patrick will long encourage us to treasure our strong community spirit and tradition of welcome and care for one another," McAleese said in her traditional message on St. Patrick's Day, a national holiday in Ireland.

Several other cities and towns across this republic of 3.9 million people mounted their own parades, including in the second-largest city of Cork, this year's European City of Culture.

In Limerick, parade organizers emphasized Ireland's increasing status as a destination for immigrants from eastern Europe and Africa.

The shortest parade — in the village of Dripsey, County Cork — was just 25 yards long.



No one but the good saint himself could lead the St. Patrick's Day parade down O'Connell Street in Dublin, Ireland, on Thursday.

Koizumi denies delay on lifting beef ban

MARI YAMAGUCHI

The Associated Press

TOKYO — Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi on Thursday denied that Japan is stalling on a decision to lift its ban on U.S. beef imports, amid mounting pressure from Washington for Tokyo to move faster.

U.S. lawmakers have warned of possible sanctions in retaliation against Tokyo's 15-month ban, imposed over mad cow disease fears.

President Bush telephoned Koizumi last week to ask him to expedite a resumption of imports, and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice was due in Tokyo this week to apply more pressure.

But Koizumi said Japan is not

intentionally holding up the process.

"[The pressure] is largely America's own issue. Japan is not deliberately delaying resumption of U.S. beef imports," Koizumi told a parliamentary committee on foreign and defense affairs.

"If there is a misunderstanding in the United States, we'll have to straighten that up."

Japan banned U.S. beef imports in December 2003 after the discovery of the United States' first case of mad cow disease.

Washington has been steadily pushing Tokyo to drop the ban, and Japan's Food Safety Commission is considering the issue.

On Thursday, Koizumi denied Japan is putting off the decision in a bid to protect domestic beef growers.

"We Japanese are all hoping to eat safe beef, but the safety should be judged by scientific knowledge, not a political decision," Koizumi said.

"If the beef is safe, we want to eat it, whether it is raised in America or wherever."

Koizumi said he has explained this to Bush and will keep trying when Rice arrives Friday as part of a tour of Asia.

Tokyo is unlikely to tell Rice exactly when U.S. beef will be allowed back into Japan's market, Koizumi told reporters. "At this point, we cannot offer a timetable or set a date," he said.

Japan requires testing of all beef products for the fatal, brain-wasting disease, but the United States does not require

such blanket testing and has resisted Japanese calls to adopt the policy, saying it is costly and unreliable at detecting infections in young cows.

Japan's food safety board is considering waiting tests for cattle aged 20 months or younger. Scientists believe the proteins associated with mad cow disease, also called bovine spongiform encephalopathy, do not accumulate in cows that young.

Last month, a Japanese government panel backed a U.S. proposal to exempt younger cows from testing.

The Food Safety Commission is nearing a consensus on relaxing domestic beef testing standards, a condition to start more rounds of discussions on the safety of U.S. beef imports.



Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi says Japan is not dragging its feet on a decision to lift its ban on U.S. beef imports. Japan requires testing all beef for mad cow disease.

N. Korea's executions

TOKYO — A firing squad fires a few shots. In the distance, the blurry North Korean figures condemned to die for attempting to escape the totalitarian nation slump over, lifeless.

A Japanese media company said Thursday it has obtained footage of two sessions of public executions they say were carried out in North Korea on March 1-2. Nippon Television Network Corp. broadcast portions of the tape Wednesday. South Korean activists have asserted the totalitarian state carries out the killings to terrify its citizens into remaining within its borders.

The blurry film, apparently from a hidden camera, appeared to show two people being shot in Hoeryong town near the border with China on March 1.

From The Associated Press

Crude futures hit new high — above \$57 a barrel

The Associated Press

LONDON — Crude oil futures prices soared above \$57 a barrel for the first time Thursday after OPEC's pledge to increase output failed to assure traders who were worried about tight supply.

Light, sweet crude for April delivery rose 39 cents to \$56.85 a barrel in early trade on the New York Mercantile Exchange, after reaching as high as \$57.50 overnight.

Heating oil rose more than 2 cents to \$1.645 a gallon. Brent crude also reached new highs, hitting \$56.15 a barrel before ending flat. In afternoon trading it was up 83 cents to \$55.71 on the International Petroleum Exchange.

In a monthly report released Thursday, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries warned that economic growth in the United States, China and Japan would push demand for its oil even higher in the second half of this year.

It also said it was unclear what impact the resulting price increases could have.

"Oil prices rose further in March and the capacity of consumers and companies to absorb such increases is a further uncertainty," OPEC said.

OPEC members meeting in Iran on Wednesday agreed to boost the group's output quota by

500,000 barrels a day, or 1.9 percent.

The market was unimpressed with the decision, because members of the oil cartel who are supposedly bound by its production quota are already exceeding the previous ceiling by about 700,000 barrels a day — meaning no extra supply will actually be added.

OPEC President Sheikh Ahmed Fahd Al Ahmed Al Sabah also said the additional barrels may not come until May, since members are already supplying more than planned.

"This is not about lowering prices. It's about stopping them skyrocketing," Yasser Elguindi of

New York-based Medley Global Advisers said on the International Oil Daily Web site. "We are going to be either side of \$50 with spikes to around \$60."

Bruce Evers, an analyst with Investec Securities, said traders are convinced the announcement "won't be enough and it's going to leave the supply side of the equation very stretched."

With capacity so tight and demand expected to increase later in the year when winter hits, an unforeseen supply disruption — like a bad hurricane season in the Gulf of Mexico or political instability in Nigeria or Venezuela — could send prices even higher, he warned.

Jury Duty 101: Japan plans judicial reform

BY KENJI HALL
The Associated Press

TOKYO — They tried on the black robes, sat in the high-backed chairs, and asked about everything from what to wear to how long they'd be away from work.

It was just the basics for Japan's opening day of Jury Duty 101.

Organized by the Justice Ministry, Wednesday's seminar at a Tokyo courthouse offered the public its first chance to find out about jury trials, being introduced as part of the country's most drastic judicial reforms since World War II.

At present, Japan's courts don't use juries and rely instead on a panel of three judges to preside over trials.

The new system, expected to start by 2009, would let Japanese be jurors, giving them the right to determine guilt or innocence in serious criminal cases.

"We want the public to feel they are part of the judicial process," court justice Kazumori Karei told some 50 participants.

Takeshi Fujinami, 60, thinks that's a positive step.

"I've only seen the courts on TV. Juries would make me pay more attention to trials," said Fujinami, a small business owner.

Under legislation approved by parliament in 2004, registered Japanese voters 20 years or older would be chosen by lottery to sit on a six-person jury for trials at any of Japan's 50 district, or lower, courts. Exemptions will be granted for religious beliefs, child care and illness, and other details, such as stipends, are still being worked out.



Japanese college students, from left, Kureha Tsukamoto, Naoko Tateyama, and Kaori Nijikubo, all age 21, try on the black robes worn by judges as they participate in a seminar, organized by the Justice Ministry, at a Tokyo courthouse Wednesday. The seminar offered the public its first chance to find out about jury trials being introduced as part of Japan's most drastic judicial reforms since World War II.

Other reforms are expected to boost the ranks of Japan's 20,000 judges, lawyers and prosecutors, which have been limited by the bar exam's tough requirements.

The changes should help shorten trials, which only are held about once a month and can plod on for years, Karei said. Human rights groups say they hope the

reforms also will bring fairness and more transparency to the justice system. They have criticized police and prosecutors for interrogating suspects without defense lawyers present.

That's a concern because verdicts often hinge on a crime suspect's written confession, and 99 percent of criminal cases brought to trial end with a conviction, said Kenta Yamada, a lawyer and director at the Japan Civil Liberties Union.

"The new system should ensure the rights of defendants," Yamada said. For instance, defense lawyers would be able to see the evidence against a client before a trial starts, which they can't do now, he said.

Yamada also expressed concern about restrictions that prevent participants from publicly discussing the trial even after it's over.

Still, Japan's jury system will differ from other countries'.

Japanese jurors will participate in trials of serious crimes, such as murders, arson, child abuse and hit-and-run traffic accidents. They will sit alongside judges at a semicircular bench at the front of the courtroom, and will vote together with judges on verdicts and sentencing. Decisions will be reached by majority.

By contrast, in the United States and Britain, jurors can take part in either civil or criminal cases and usually sit at the side of the courtroom, away from the judge. Their job is to determine guilt or innocence in both types of trials, but they also decide on damages in civil cases.



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IN THE STATES

Congress weighs in on Florida's right-to-die case

BY JESSE J. HOLLAND
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congress was immersed Thursday in the controversy over removing the feeding tube from a brain-damaged Florida woman whose husband has been given permission by a state court to let her die.

Within hours of the Republican-controlled House's passage of a bill to block the removal of Terri Schiavo's feeding tube, Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., announced the Senate would take up a separate bill to address the situation before leaving for its Easter recess on Friday.

The question is, should we allow her to be starved to death? Frist said Thursday in a Senate speech. "It has to do with the culture of life. And I believe this body is going to have to speak on this particular matter before we leave."

Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid of Nevada said he sees potential problems with the legislation, but said he was willing to work with the Republicans to try and resolve them.

At the White House, press secretary Scott McClellan said the case raises "a lot of complex issues" and declined to comment on specific legislation. But he said

Bush "stands on the side of defending life."

Schiavo's husband has battled her parents over his efforts to allow her to die, which he contends she would prefer rather than live in a vegetative state.

On Thursday, Schiavo's parents, Bob and Mary Schindler, filed an emergency motion at the Supreme Court to stop the removal of her feeding tube so lower courts can consider whether their daughter's religious freedom and due process rights have been violated.

In Florida, the state House passed a bill Thursday that could keep Terri Schiavo alive. The House bill blocks the withholding of food and water from patients in a persistent vegetative state who didn't leave specific instructions refusing the artificial measure. It passed 78-37.

The Senate was expected to take up its own bill later in the day, and the differences between the two bills could be impossible to reconcile before Friday, some legislators have said.

The bill in the U.S. House passed on a voice vote. It would move such a case to federal court. Federal judges have twice turned down efforts by the parents to move the case out of Florida courts, citing a lack of jurisdiction.



President Bush welcomes Ireland's Prime Minister Bertie Ahern, left, during the traditional Saint Patrick's Day celebration in the Roosevelt Room of the White House in Washington, Thursday. Both leaders made remarks on the peace process in Northern Ireland and talked of their countries' shared history.

Bush advocates peace in Ireland

BY NEDRA PICKLER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush told the family of slain Irishman Robert McCartney that he would do whatever he can to help bring his killers to justice, his sisters said after a St. Patrick's Day meeting with the president in the White House.

McCartney was beaten and stabbed to death outside a Belfast pub on Jan. 30. His family blames the outlawed Irish Republican Army for his death and is calling for charges to be brought against 12 people they say were responsible.

McCartney's five sisters and his fiancée met Bush for a few minutes during a St. Patrick's Day reception Thursday at the White House to ask him to use his influence on the case. One of the sisters, Catherine McCartney, told reporters afterward that Bush knew the details of her brother's

death and said he supports their cause, although he didn't say exactly what he would do to help.

"We pressed on the president the importance of getting justice for Robert, and he said he's 100 percent behind our campaign," Catherine McCartney said, standing outside the White House gate with the rest of her sisters and her late brother's fiancée.

The sisters are hoping that public support in the United States for their cause will spur Sinn Féin and the IRA to encourage witnesses to offer evidence directly to Northern Ireland's police force. The Sinn Féin-IRA movement, which rejects police authority, instead has advised witnesses to offer statements to lawyers, a widely criticized policy in Northern Ireland.

Before meeting with the McCartneys, Bush received a bowl of shamrock in a public ceremony with Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern. Bush pledged to help the Irish people move toward a

lasting agreement in Northern Ireland peace process.

"As you work for peace, our government and the American people will stand with you," Bush said.

Because of the allegations about the IRA's involvement in McCartney's death and a bank heist on Dec. 20, Bush did not invite Northern Ireland political leaders who attended for 10 years, including Gerry Adams, head of Sinn Féin, the legal political arm of the IRA.

"There is no place for the violence and the thuggery and the criminality," White House press secretary Scott McClellan said of the IRA. "The president made that clear."

Ahern said renewed power-sharing in Northern Ireland between Protestant leaders and Sinn Féin, the major Catholic-backed party, required the IRA to deliver "a definitive closure to paramilitary capability and activity, including all forms of criminality."

Lil' Kim convicted of lying to federal court

BY LARRY NEUMEISTER
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Rap diva Lil' Kim was convicted Thursday of lying to a federal grand jury about a shooting outside a radio station.

Lil' Kim and her assistant were both convicted of perjury and conspiracy but acquitted of obstruction of justice. The defendants had faced up to 30 years in prison if convicted of all the charges.

The 29-year-old former sidekick of the late Notorious B.I.G., known for her revealing outfits and raunchy raps, testified that she did not notice two close friends at the scene of the 2001 shootout — her manager, Damon Butler, and Sufi "Gutta" Jackson.

Both men have since pleaded guilty to gun charges. Witnesses at the trial included Antoine "Banger" Spain and James "Lil' Cease" Lloyd, who once teamed with Lil' Kim in the group Junior M.A.F.I.A. They testified that Butler and Jackson were at WQHT — the rap station

known as Hot 97 — with Lil' Kim. The jury also saw security photos taken at the scene.



Lil' Kim

she had already eliminated them from her life.

Both defendants sought appeals as the verdicts were delivered. Lil' Kim's supporters broke out in sobs.

The shootout occurred when Lil' Kim's entourage crossed paths with a rival rap group, Capone-N-Noreaga. One man was injured as more than two dozen rounds were fired on the side walk.

Former Jackson housekeeper testifies

BY TIM MOLLLOY
The Associated Press

SANTA MARIA, Calif. — A former housekeeper at Michael Jackson's Neverland ranch testified Thursday in the singer's child molestation trial that the pop star had close friendships with several boys from ages 10 to 14 and that she saw children he believed to be intoxicated at the estate.

Kiki Fournier also said children who remained at Neverland anywhere from a few days to months at a time would sometimes stay in Jackson's room, and she described kids running wild without parental supervision and little discipline from Jackson, being permitted to stay up late, eat candy, watch movies and play games.

"They would get in candy-throwing fights in the theater," she said, describing how she nicknamed Neverland "Pinocchio's Pleasure Island."

"Sometimes they would get pretty rowdy. ... He did let them have a free hand, so to say. They could get pretty rambunctious."

Jackson's accuser and his brother were among the children who became wilder the longer they stayed at Neverland, Fournier said.

She said that initially the accuser was very polite but she soon noticed that the room he shared with his brother was increasingly dirty.

Asked by prosecutor Gordon Auchincloss if she had ever seen children who appeared to be intoxicated, Fournier said, "I can't say for sure how many times, but I've seen it a couple of times."

The witness later clarified that it was about three or four times.

She said she once served dinner to Jackson and about four children, three of whom appeared to be intoxicated.

Fournier said she stopped working at Neverland soon after that dinner in September 2003 but did not testify about her reasons for leaving.

She also said the children who stayed there included actor Macaulay Culkin and Frank Cascio, who became a Jackson employee when he became an adult and is named by the prosecutor as an unindicted co-conspirator in the case against the pop star.

BTK suspect Rader was airman on Okinawa

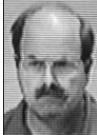
BY ROXANA HEGEMAN
The Associated Press

WICHITA, Kan. — The man who authorities believe is the BTK serial killer reached the rank of sergeant in the Air Force and earned medals, including ones for good conduct and marksmanship, military records show.

Dennis Rader, 60, is accused of committing 10 murders between 1974 and 1991 in the Wichita area. He allegedly coined the nickname that stood for his killing method, "Bind, Torture, Kill," authorities have said.

According to records, obtained by the AP through a Freedom of Information request, Rader's tour

of duty took him to bases throughout the United States and overseas.



Rader

He served as an active duty airman from Aug. 17, 1966, to Aug. 11, 1970, and then was a reservist until June 20, 1972. He reached the rank of sergeant and was awarded the Air Force Good Conduct Medal, the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon and the Marksman-Denise Service Medal.

"His service was very much clean cut... He did well," said Ursula Soto with the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis. "He was just a regular soldier."

Rader went through basic training in Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio and later attended technical school at Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, Texas. It is unlikely he left those bases much, if at all, during training, Soto said.

In February 1967, he was stationed at Brooksley Air Force Base in Mobile, Ala., where he worked on antenna system installation and maintenance, his records show. In January 1968, Rader

was based at Kadana Air Base in Okinawa, and months later went to Tachikawa Air Base in Japan.

His last assignment was in Denver, where his reserve unit was headquartered, but Rader was never actually based there, Soto said.

Rader's military record has been the subject of intense interest since Charlie Otero told The Associated Press in December that he believed his parents and two siblings were strangled by BTK in 1974 because of something his father did while serving in the Air Force.

On Jan. 15, 1974, three children of Joseph and Julie Otero came home from school to find their par-

ents and two other siblings dead at the family's Wichita home.

Charlie Otero was convinced his father knew the killer because he had been acting strangely to protect the family in the days before the killings. He did not immediately return a message left Wednesday seeking comment.

Police in Mobile are now trying to find old case files to see if any unsolved murders match the BTK killings.

Eric Gallichant, a police spokesman, said it could take weeks to find and look through files that are more than 30 years old.

"In Wichita, the BTK killer was a big deal... but here in Mobile obviously we had no way of knowing there was a connection," he said.

'Person of interest' arrested in case of missing Florida girl

The Associated Press

HOMOSASSA, Fla. — A registered sex offender who was being sought for questioning in the disappearance of a 9-year-old girl was taken into custody by deputies in Georgia on Thursday, officials said.

The sheriff's office in Richmond County, Ga., placed John Evander Couey under arrest because he didn't notify Florida officials that he was leaving the state, a requirement for sex offenders, said Ronda Hemminger Evan, spokeswoman for the Citrus County sheriff's office. She had no details about Couey's arrest but said he would be questioned in the disappearance of Jessica Lunsford.

"Our investigators are en route to speak with him," Evan said.

Couey, 46, was described by authorities as a "person of interest" in the search for Jessica Lunsford, who vanished from her bedroom Feb. 23. Couey lived near her home before he left for Georgia without telling authorities, officials said.

Authorities had said Wednesday they had issued two arrest warrants for Couey — one on a probation violation, the other on his failure to notify them of his move.

Investigators "may take him out of the picture" once they interview him, Citrus County Sheriff Jeff Dawsey said. Couey already had been questioned by police in Georgia over the weekend, and "he is get-



Richmond County, Ga., police arrested John Evander Couey, left, on charges unrelated to his status as a "person of interest" in the disappearance of Jessica Lunsford, right. Nine-year-old Jessica was last seen at her Homosassa Springs, Fla., home on Feb. 23.

ting more and more interesting to us as time goes on," Dawsey said.

A spokesman for police in Savannah, Ga., where Couey had been interviewed earlier, said he was arrested near a Salvation Army in Augusta, Ga. Couey's home in Homosassa is about 2 miles from Jessica's, but he also sometimes stayed with his half sister who lives within "eyeshot" of her house, Dawsey said.

Mark Lunsford, Jessica's father, said Wednesday that the family didn't know Couey. "It's someone nobody has seen before," he said. "I know my daughter doesn't go with strangers. So I just don't see it." Couey's criminal record includes arrests for burglary, carrying a concealed weapon and indecent exposure. In 1991, he was arrested in Kissimmee on a charge of fondling a child under age 16. Records don't show how the case was resolved.



AP photos

Arrest made in alleged plot to abduct Letterman baby

BY JOHN MACDONALD
The Associated Press

HELENA, Mont. — Authorities have arrested a man on allegations he was plotting to kidnap David Letterman's young son and nanny from the talk-show host's Montana home.

Sally H. Hilsander, a spokeswoman for the Montana Department of Corrections, identified the suspect as Kelly A. Frank.

The plot was uncovered when someone whom Frank had approached about the plan informed local police, Hilsander said. Frank was in custody on a felony charge of solicitation.

Two spokesmen for Letterman



Letterman

in New York did not immediately return telephone calls seeking comment.

Mike Ferriter of the state Department of Corrections said Frank, 43, was arrested Sunday in Cascade County and arraigned Thursday.

He had been working as a painter at Letterman's ranch west of Choteau in northcentral Montana, Ferriter said.

"An individual was approached by Mr. Frank, an acquaintance of some kind, about his thought on the kidnapping, and [Frank] shared his idea with this individual," Ferriter said. "I'm not sure he asked him to assist or be a part of it." Letterman's girlfriend, Regina Lasako, gave birth to their son on Nov. 3, 2003. Letterman said that the boy, his first child, was named after his late father, Harry Joseph Letterman.

The comedian who hosts CBS' "Late Show" brought the 2,700-a-hour pay in 1999.

Scott Peterson becomes a dead man walking

Convicted murderer Scott Peterson is escorted Thursday by two San Mateo County, Calif., sheriff's deputies as he is walked to a waiting van for transportation from the jail to death row at San Quentin State Prison. Peterson was sentenced to die for murdering his pregnant wife, Laci, and their unborn son. Peterson is the 644th prisoner awaiting execution at the infamous lockup overlooking the bay where the bodies of his wife and their son were found four months after the Christmas Eve 2002 disappearance.



AP

Suspect's son was born days before courthouse shootings

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Brian Nichols felt blessed when he found out his girlfriend was pregnant with their son, and the woman said he repeatedly told her he wanted to be with the child.

Three days after the boy was born, Nichols allegedly went on a crime spree at the courthouse where he was on trial for rape, leaving an Atlanta judge and three others dead.

"I do know that he wanted to be with the baby. He did speak about it all the time," said Sonya Meredith, the mother of the baby boy. She said Nichols made those statements in the days and weeks leading up to the shootings.

Meredith's statements and transcripts from Nichols' rape trial



Nichols

revealed a detailed motive.

The development about a possible motive came as the doctor for a deputy allegedly attacked by Nichols said the officer has no memory of the assault. Cynthia Hall's amnesia could subside as her brain injury heals, doctors said.

Gaelic enjoys rebirth

BY TOM COYNE
The Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — In English-speaking Ireland, the Gaelic language is viewed by many citizens as an all-but-dead language that should be allowed to fade into oblivion.

But at the University of Notre Dame, where students pay nearly \$40,000 a year to attend, the little-used language is enjoying a renaissance.

"There are a lot of kids here who are the grandchildren of the very successful and the very rich, and their grandparents were taught to forget about their Irish past," said Eamonn O Ciardha, program director at Notre Dame's Keshog Institute for Irish Studies. "They want to know about their language, they want to know about their history, they want to know about their culture."

The institute, established in 1993, allows students to examine everything from the language to Irish history and dance.

It also does a good job of integrating Irish and American perspectives, said John P. Harrington, president of the American Conference for Irish Studies.

"They've done a good job of creating Irish studies as a genuinely international subject area, which is what it is," Harrington said.

This year, 882 undergraduates are taking at least one class in Irish studies, including 155 in Irish language, formally known as Gaelic. That's up from 200, when 150 students enrolled in Irish studies classes and 96 students signed up for Irish language.

O Ciardha said many Irish readily gave up their language when they arrived in America.

"We left our language on Ellis Island," O Ciardha said. "It was part of the trauma of the famine and the fact that, for generations before the famine, the Irish people had been told that their language was barbaric, that it was a badge of stupidity and ignorance and that it was no good for them anywhere else in the world."

But O Ciardha believes the Irish language will survive.

"The death of the Irish language has been foretold since the 1800s, but it's still hanging in there," he said.



New York City Police Officer Bill Donahue plays the bass drum as the NYPD pipe and drums group marches in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York on Thursday.

Parade traditions persist: Plenty of green, protesters

BY SAM DOLNICK
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The St. Patrick's Day Parade kicked off Thursday with a sea of green revelers along Fifth Avenue, but the storied celebration would not be itself without a bit of friction.

This year, the ever-present gay and lesbian demonstrators were joined by firefighters protesting a new dress code.

But holiday pride was undaunted by any controversy along the parade route, because the Irish can turn anything into cause for merriment, said Dorine Aurimma, a reveler wearing a Notre Dame sweatshirt with a green and white hat.

"Nobody celebrates like the Irish," she said. "When you come from an Irish family, you learn to celebrate everything, even death."

Along the parade, the loudest cheers erupted for the "Fighting 69th," the New York National Guard's 69th Infantry Regiment that has lost several men in Iraq. Among those killed was Bronx firefighter Chris Engelhardt, who died in a roadside bombing attack last November.

Uptown, hundreds of firefighters were expected to skip the parade and watch from the sidelines



Firefighter Tom Martin, with Engine 60 in Bronx, N.Y., unfolds a protest sign before the start of the St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York on Thursday. At issue was a ban on firefighters wearing green berets in the parade.

in protest of a Fire Department order prohibiting members from wearing their customary green berets.

The Fire Department issued an order on March 4 declaring that only the blue dress uniform, including the official uniform cap,

could be worn during the parade. The order banned the green berets, a tradition that dates back more than 30 years.

Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta defended the rule Wednesday, arguing that "a proper dress code must be adhered to."

"Every member of the Fire Department should wear his or her uniform with pride and respect," Scoppetta said. "It's about respecting the uniform and the position you hold, both of which should not be taken for granted."

In protest, firefighters said they would gather along the parade route at the steps of the Metropolitan Museum of Art to "support our brothers and sisters as they march," said Lt. Eddie Boles of the 14th Battalion in the Bronx.

A few blocks past the start of the route in midtown, demonstrators gathered to protest organizers' longstanding refusal to allow lesbians and gays from marching in the parade under their own banner.

Calling the event a "parade of hate," John Francis Mulligan, 35, stood holding a sign that read "No city money for homophobia."

"It's important to let all the spectators know what they're participating in and draw attention to the religious right's takeover of the parade," he said.

Web site spotlights 'missing' Irish ads

The Associated Press

BOSTON — The luck of the Irish isn't apparent in many of the ads in the "Missing Friends" column that ran in The Boston Pilot, the Roman Catholic newspaper in the city, from 1831 to 1921.

Irish immigrants used the ads to locate loved ones after they became separated in their journey to America. Some were looking for a spouse who skipped town, while others sought to unite families. All of them shed light on the immigrant experience.

On Thursday, St. Patrick's Day — Boston College posted online a database of 31,000 ads that anyone can search.

The Web site is called Information Wanted, named after the column under which the ads ran. It can be accessed after 1 p.m. Thursday at <http://infowanted.bc.edu>.

The database is an electronic version of BC professor Ruth-Ann M. Harris' eight-volume set called "The Search for Missing Friends: Irish Immigrant Advertisements Placed in the Boston Pilot." Harris researched and edited the set for the New England Historical Genealogical Society.

"What they're doing is arriving in Boston, and I think they had no comprehension how large North America was," said Harris, a professor of Irish history.

The first ad appeared in October 1831. It sought Patrick McDermott, whose newly emigrated wife and family were going to be sent back to Ireland if he didn't show up.

There are no records to show how often the ads led to reunions, but Harris suspects many did because of the volume of the ads over many years. Harris said the popularity of the ads "put the Pilot on the map." Until then, it reflected the French intellectual thought that was prevalent in the Catholic church in Boston in the early 19th century.

Most of the ads stopped after 1915, when the Archdiocese of Boston bought the Pilot.

Also by then, postal service had greatly improved, allowing better communication among families and friends.

Union employees protest Schwarzenegger retirement reforms at fund-raiser

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Protesters outraged over Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's proposed changes to state pensions and teacher salaries gathered outside a hotel where the governor was holding a lavish fund-raiser to support his agenda.

Nurses, firefighters and teachers spilled into the street outside the Century City hotel Wednesday, calling for the governor's ouster and waving placards that read,

"California not for sale" and "Don't privatize retirement security."

Police said there were about 1,500 protesters and no arrests were made.

The protest was the latest in a series of actions by a loosely affiliated group of union members, Democrats and others designed to frustrate Schwarzenegger's plans.

The Republican governor has called for series of changes to everything from pub-

lic employee pensions to how legislative districts are drawn. Opponents have challenged the governor's policies in court, run TV ads against him and staged street demonstrations.

Schwarzenegger has been organizing a statewide petition drive take his proposals directly to the voters in a special election expected this fall, raising an estimated \$50 million he said he needs for the campaign.

"The governor anticipated the special in-

terests would start crying foul when he was trying to bring about reform," Schwarzenegger spokeswoman Margita Thompson said.

Right now, the unions are fighting for their own interests. The governor is fighting for the people's interest."

On Wednesday, police temporarily shut the street outside the hotel as the crowd swelled, snarling afternoon rush hour traffic.

New study on Down syndrome gets notice

BY LOLITA C. BALDOR

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A study about mothers of Down syndrome children that was published just this month by a Harvard Medical School student has quickly made its way to the halls of Congress.

Brian Skotko's survey found that doctors don't provide pregnant women with enough information about Down syndrome and the prospects for their child after birth. All too often, said Skotko, the mothers received the news about their child in a negative, gloomy fashion that failed to relay any positive information about the child's life expectancy and possible development.

On Wednesday, two senators offered new legislation that would require doctors to provide expectant mothers with up-to-date, scientific information about the child's condition, possible treatment options and expected development. It also calls for a study of existing health care and support services.

"Our real vision should be for families to grow and prosper and continue to bring new life into the world — and we need to support that effort," said Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass.

Skotko, also a student at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, called his study results from 1,250 survey responses he got from mothers in Down syndrome parent organizations in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, California, Colorado and North Carolina.

"Doctors continue to find it very challenging to deliver a diagnosis like Down syndrome to an otherwise happy expectant mom," said Skotko, who has a sister with Down syndrome.

Beth Allard, a Boston-area parent who brought her young son Ben to Capitol Hill on Wednesday, said that when an expectant mother is told her child will have Down syndrome or some other condition, it is scary and confusing.

Kennedy and Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., said parents need to be equipped to handle the diagnosis.

"For some conditions that can be detected in the womb, we are aborting 80 percent or more of the babies who test positive," Brownback said.

"The effect of this sort of weeding out is creating a Eugenics, a term of systematic disability-based discrimination."

Report: Obesity affecting life span

BY LINDSEY TANNER

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — A new and disputed research adds to twist to the Social Security dilemma, suggesting that a nation going for itself on bacon double-cheeseburgers will one day dramatically shorten the average U.S. life span.

Obesity — especially its alarming rise among children — is the culprit, fueling a startling reversal in life expectancy, which likely will drop by two to five years or more within 50 years, according to a new report in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

This would reverse the mostly steady increase in American life expectancy that has occurred in the past two centuries. It could even inadvertently "save" Social Security, but the tremendous

price would be higher death rates and escalating health care costs, said lead author S. Jay Olshansky, a life expectancy researcher at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Other longevity scientists called the research overly dire and unlikely to single-handedly affect Social Security.

But Olshansky said with obesity affecting at least 15 percent of American schoolchildren, "it's not pie in the sky. The children who are extremely obese are already here."

Already, rising obesity rates have shaved four to nine months off the average life span of 77.6 years, he and his colleagues contend in the journal report.

In a journal editorial, University of Pennsylvania demography expert Samuel H. Preston calls the projections "excessively gloomy."

Opposing forecasts, projecting a continued increase in U.S. longevity, assume that obesity will continue to worsen but also account for medical advances, Preston said.

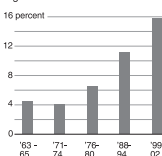
Still, failure to curb obesity "could impede the improvements

Gains in longevity expected to level off

A study indicates that the long-running rise in life expectancy is likely to fall off. Researchers suggest that the increase in childhood obesity will have an adverse effect on average life expectancy in the United States.

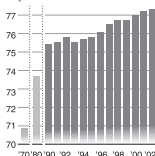
Percentage of overweight

Ages 6 to 11



Life expectancy at birth

78 years of life



SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

AP

in longevity that are otherwise in doubt. Americans' current life expectancy already trails more than 20 other developed countries.

Obesity researcher Dr. JoAnn Manson said she agrees with the paper's message, if not the meth-

ods. While the calculations "may not be perfect," the emphasis on obesity's dangers "should serve as a wake-up call for policy makers and the public health community," said Manson, chief of preventive medicine at Harvard's Brigham and Women's Hospital.

Discovery sheds light on female biology

BY RICK WEISS

The Washington Post

She was slow to reveal her secrets, but the X chromosome has now bared it all.

More than a century after a scientist in Leipzig focused his microscope on the blobs of DNA inside a cell and labeled one "X" because it behaved differently than others, researchers have determined with 99.99 percent accuracy the genetic code of the chromosome at the core of human female-ness.

The newly completed picture of the X chromosome — one of the last orders of business for the human genome project — falls far short of explaining all the mysteries of what makes a woman.

But by determining the exact order of virtually all 155 million "letters" of code on the X — the counterpart to the male Y chromosome — scientists have now confirmed how sex evolved and are much closer to explaining some of the differences between men and women.

The X's unveiling also brings into focus the molecular underpinnings of hundreds of genetic diseases, far more than have been discovered on any other human chromosome. And it appears to have revealed a long-sought role for much of the body's "junk DNA," which is especially prevalent on the X and whose lack of apparent function has long baffled scientists.

Perhaps most tantalizing, the new work sheds light on one of the most astonishing acts of self-effacement in all of biology: the permanent shutting down of half of the X chromo-

somes in every cell of a girl's body — an effort to match the activity of the single X that men inherit with their Y.

"It's more evidence that it's not so much what you've got as how you use it," said Mark Ross of the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute in Cambridge, England, who led the gargantuan sequencing effort involving 282 scientists

at 21 institutions in six countries, including the United States.

Like other chromosomes, X and Y are tangled skeins of DNA that bear genes, the operating instructions inside cells that direct the development and maintenance of the body.

But unlike the other 22 pairs of human chromosomes, X and Y are crucial to sex determination. For some of other animals, including chickens, fish and rats. The similarities and differences confirmed previous hints about how the X and Y — and with them, sex as we know it — arose.

It happened about 300 million years ago, long before the first mammals. A conventional chromosome in a forebear of humans, probably a reptile of some sort, apparently under-

went a mutation that allowed it to direct the development of sperm-producing testes.

Sex already existed, but environmental factors such as temperature determined whether an animal developed as male or female — a system still in place in turtles and other reptiles. When genes gained control, they freed animals from such vicissitudes and assured a roughly one-to-one sex ratio.

With time, the altered chromosome — today known as Y — focused on male-making and dropped most of its previous duties, leaving them to be carried out by its unmated partner, the X. By literally shedding all but a core of about 100 genes, the Y gradually shrank to about one-sixth the size of the X.

As it turns out, however, many of the more than 1,000 genes on X are also crucial to female. So while it is an exaggeration to say female is the "default" human form, arising spontaneously in the absence of a Y, it is also wrong to assume that the X is thoroughly feminine. After all, every man has one.

"It certainly does not seem to be the least bit true that the X is pink," said David Page, interim director of the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research in Cambridge, Mass. "The Y is certainly blue."

Hermann Henking, the microscopist who coined the term "X" in 1890, did not know he was looking at DNA. But he and others of his era knew that many diseases affect only males — a pattern eventually traced to the X chromosome and a big reason why the X has long garnered so much research attention.

Defective genes on the X easily lead to diseases in males because males lack a second, healthy X to compensate. While a disease's linkage to the X is many obvious by the pattern of unaffected mothers giving birth to affected sons, the newly completed sequence will speed discovery of the specific genes involved and the development of novel therapies, scientists said.

FACES



NBC UNIVERSAL/AP

Above: Lorraine Bracco, second from left, plays Carla Grizzano on the new "Law & Order" spinoff, "Trial by Jury." Also pictured from left are Susan Blommaert, Bebe Neuwirth and Amy Carlson. Right: Bracco is taking her positive message about antidepressants public.

Whacking depression

"The Sopranos" actress wants to end the stigma on antidepressants

BY DERRIK J. LANG
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The irony has not escaped Lorraine Bracco.

For five seasons as psychiatrist Dr. Melfi on HBO's "The Sopranos," the actress has battled mob boss Tony Soprano's mental demons. But for a year and a half in real life, Bracco was fighting clinical depression with medication and therapy.

"If you break your leg, you have it fixed," Bracco, 50, said recently.

"If you have a toothache, you go to the dentist. When it comes to mental health, people tend to think they can just get over it."

Bracco's ready to talk about her fight with depression in hopes of knocking out stigmas about antidepressants and their effects.

The mother of two went to drug manufac-

turer Pfizer in hopes of getting the word out. She has a series of commercials and a Web site, www.depressionhelp.com, with information about antidepressants.

"I don't blame anything or anyone," Bracco said. "I think it was lack of education about medication. I thought if I need medication, I must be really sick."

Bracco — who has appeared in more than 30 movies, including "GoodFellas," "The Basketball Diaries" and "Even Cowgirls Get the Blues" — acknowledges she wasn't feeling too keen after battling for custody of daughter Stella with ex-husband and actor Harvey Keitel, dealing with Stella's juvenile rheumatoid arthritis and declaring bankruptcy after splitting with actor Edward James Olmos.

"I just had a lot of really big things that kept pounding me and I would let all these things rule my life instead of my dreams and wishes," Bracco said.

"I was doing everything. I was being a



PRIZEN/AP

good mommy. The laundry was done. They had food. They were driven to school and extracurricular activities, but I was joyless in it. It just became a chore for me."

Looking back, Bracco said she was dealing with depression for over a decade. It wasn't until 1997, after she'd been cast in "The Sopranos," that she followed the suggestion of a friend to seek professional help.

"I was very afraid to go on any kind of medication because I was afraid it was going to dull me, which is not true," Bracco said. "I think a lot of people think you'll become a zombie."

But antidepressants didn't hinder Bracco's performance in "Sopranos," and she eventually escaped the depression.

"I was on the medication for a year and a half and went into the doctor's office and said, 'I don't really need this anymore,'" said Bracco.

"I haven't been taking it for five years, six years."

If the story ended here, it'd be a happy ending for Bracco. She bought a house in the Hamptons, Stella's in college. Bracco goes back to shooting the sixth season of "Sopranos" in April. She's also appeared in the new "Law & Order" spinoff, "Trial by Jury."

And she's been dating 30-year-old former Syracuse University basketball player Jason Cipolla for almost three years.

"A good relationship doesn't hurt anybody," Bracco said. "Let's be fair, younger or older. That's been very nice for me."

'Apprentice' idea lawsuit

A Southern California man who sued NBC Universal, Donald Trump and the creator of "The Apprentice" in federal court last year on claims they stole his idea now is suing in state court.

In the Superior Court lawsuit filed Monday, Mark Bethea claims that he and the Velocity Entertainment Group came up with the idea for an unscripted series called "C.E.O." The lawsuit said the series would have been set up in a corporate office environment, with Trump as its host.

The lawsuit is against Mark Burnett and his partner, Conrad Riggs. It claims Bethea pitched the idea to Burnett and Riggs in 2001 and they later lifted "substantial and integral material" from "C.E.O."

A phone call to an NBC representative seeking comment early Wednesday wasn't immediately returned.

The federal lawsuit, which sought dam-

ages for copyright infringement, breach of implied contract and unfair competition, estimated that Burnett, Trump and the network had made more than \$100 million from the NBC reality show.

Snoop playing Copenhagen

Denmark got the Dogg, Snoop Dogg, that is.

Organizers of the annual Roskilde Festival said Wednesday in Copenhagen that the rapper is set to play the annual music show this year.

The artist, whose real name is Calvin Broadus, last visited Denmark in 1998. His latest release, 2004's "R&G — Rhythm and



Snoop Dogg

Gangster: The Masterpiece," spawned the hit single "Drop It Like It's Hot."

Other artists scheduled to play during the June 30-July 3 festival include Black Sabbath, The Go! Team and Junior Senior.

Last year, 75,000 tickets were sold for the outdoor event.

First held in 1971, the festival was inspired by the 1969 Woodstock Festival in upstate New York.

The event, which in recent years has been shown on MTV, attracts visitors from throughout Europe and the United States.

Hilton: Mexico is hot

Paris Hilton arrived in Mexico to promote her perfume, book and film projects, saying she also wants to shop and visit the pyramids.

"I love Mexico," Hilton, star of the TV reality series "The Simple Life," told report-

ers in Mexico City on Tuesday. "The people are so nice."

Hilton said her namesake fragrance "smells like flowers."

The 24-year-old hotel heiress has a role in "House of Wax," a remake of the 1953 Vincent Price horror movie. The new film, starring Elisha Cuthbert, is scheduled for release in the United States on May 6.

Her book, "Confessions of an Heiress: A Tongue-in-Chic Peek Behind the Pose," was published last year.

Hilton was expected to participate in a 1960s-themed fashion show along with other celebrities during her visit.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



Hilton

YOUR MONEY

Strong won't win for GIs in Korea

COLA helps, but analysts say no help likely for weak dollar

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL The dollar's slide against the Korean won looks likely to continue, according to a financial report released this week.

The dollar ended Thursday's trading day on South Korean markets at slightly more than 1,000 won; the exchange rate at Community Bank branches on Youngsan Garrison was 978 won.

A weak dollar is bad news for U.S. servicemen: It means their dollars buy less on the local economy. To combat that, the military gives servicemen a cost-of-living allowance that is adjusted periodically.

The outlook for the dollar continues to be weak, according to the report, issued this week by financial giant Citigroup. The report forecast that foreign governments likely would not intervene to halt the dollar's gradual slide, putting the dollar near the 900 won mark in months to come.

At the same time, South Korean economists said the dollar's slide worried them as it may hurt South Korean exports more expensive and less competitive in the United States. Some exporters have called for South Korea's

government to intervene to stabilize the falling dollar in South Korea.

"The current appreciation of the won against the dollar is undesirable for [South Korea] but unavoidable at present," James Rooney, Seoul Financial Forum vice chairman, was quoted as saying in the Korea Times. The reason, said Rooney, also chairman of the financial firm Market Force Co. The trend is "driven by the cost of goods and services, such as auto repairs or dry cleaning, has been offset by reductions in prices elsewhere, such as for cars and clothes, looks to have come to an end."

"I believe the major movements of the won at present and for the last six months have very little to do with Korea itself and are fundamentally related to the weakness of the dollar."

The dollar has been hovering at seven-year lows against the won. The won has gained more than 15 percent against the dollar over the past year, says Korea's Central Bank, in line with a similar trend of the Japanese yen.

Of 10 major world currencies, the bank said the dollar ranks the most against the dollar in the past year.

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Experts: Americans to pay price as inflation rises and Fed reacts

BY MIKE MEYERS
Minneapolis-St. Paul Star Tribune

For several years now, consumers have been living in a shopper's paradise. But 2005 may be the year paradise is lost.

The long, quiet period for inflation, in which every rise in price for a set of goods and services, such as auto repairs or dry cleaning, has been offset by reductions in prices elsewhere, such as for cars and clothes, looks to have come to an end.

"There are brewing inflation pressures," said Scott Anderson, senior economist at Wells Fargo & Co. in Minneapolis. "The economic winds are changing. A lot of forces that had kept prices contained are now moving in the opposite direction."

Peter Kretzmer, senior economist at Bank of America, agrees that the past 10 years, and particularly the first few years of this century, featured the kind of ultra-low inflation not seen in the United States since the Beatles

first arrived, have run their course.

"That period has ended, replaced by very mild inflation," Kretzmer said. What that inflation does to the nation's economy may have as much to do with how the Federal Reserve reacts to it — with a just-right series of interest rate increases to keep prices under control but the economy undamaged, or with recession-inducing overkill that punctures the economy along with inflation.

"The Fed is beginning to become a little concerned," said Nariman Behavesh, chief economist of Global Insight, a leading economic forecasting firm. Global Insight earlier had expected the Fed to stop raising short-term interest rates by the middle of this year, but Behavesh now foresees interest rate hikes through the end of the year.

"I don't think it's anything serious — yet," he said of the rate moves.

There are ample reasons for Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan to have some worries about what's ahead on the inflation front.

Last week, the government reported a sharper-than-expected rise in producer prices — a bellwether of consumer prices in the months ahead.

Meanwhile, the decline in the value of the U.S. dollar, a trend

that's been in place for nearly three years, is forcing U.S. consumers to pay more for some imported goods. Foreign firms, wary of a weak market share, had resisted trying to raise prices until recently.

"Obviously, [foreign] companies can take a hit on their profit margins if they think the dollar decline is a temporary phenomenon," Anderson said. "But if they think it's sticking, they'll try to push their prices up."

In January, the price of imported goods from industrialized countries — excluding China, which still ties the value of its currency to the dollar — was 6.7 percent higher than a year earlier.

Within the United States, the labor market is starting to create more jobs and workers are getting harder to find in some industries, Anderson said.

"We could see some stronger wage and salary increases" in 2005, Anderson said, and companies will try to pass along at least some of those costs through higher prices.

The prices of the commodities that many firms buy, and which make up their second-largest cost after labor, also have spiked higher. Until lately, manufacturers were hard-pressed to pass along higher prices to recoup what they are paying for everything from lumber and steel to chemicals and paper.

WEDNESDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES				
52-week High	Low	Index	Net Chg	% YTD 52-week Chg
3,689.97	2,743.46	Dow Jones Industrial	13.74	0.1
353.82	259.08	Dow Jones Transportation	3.81	0.9
7,455.08	6,211.33	NASDAQ Composite	43.48	0.7
1,539.14	1,356.74	AMEX Index	4.06	0.3
121.69	125.82	Russell 2000	0.48	0.4
1,229.11	1,066.72	S&P 500	1.97	0.2
556.11	515.90	SmallCap 2000	6.26	1.2
12,108.10	10,356.52	DJ Worldex 1000	118.15	1.2

MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE)				
Name	Vol	Net Chg	% YTD Chg	52-week High
General	348,000	0.00	0.0	1.00
Frederick	1,000	0.00	0.0	1.00
United	1,000	0.00	0.0	1.00
United	1,000	0.00	0.0	1.00
United	1,000	0.00	0.0	1.00
United	1,000	0.00	0.0	1.00
United	1,000	0.00	0.0	1.00
United	1,000	0.00	0.0	1.00
United	1,000	0.00	0.0	1.00
United	1,000	0.00	0.0	1.00

KEY DEFENSE STOCKS				
Name	Vol	Net Chg	% YTD Chg	52-week High
Alliant Technology	21	0.22	+1.2	1.18
Boeing	1,000	0.00	0.0	1.00
Boeing	1,000	0.00	0.0	1.00
Boeing	1,000	0.00	0.0	1.00
Boeing	1,000	0.00	0.0	1.00
Boeing	1,000	0.00	0.0	1.00
Boeing	1,000	0.00	0.0	1.00
Boeing	1,000	0.00	0.0	1.00
Boeing	1,000	0.00	0.0	1.00
Boeing	1,000	0.00	0.0	1.00

KEY MUTUAL FUNDS				
Name	Vol	Net Chg	% YTD Chg	52-week High
Fidelity Invest. Growth	27.73	-0.32	-1.2	1.18
Fidelity Invest. Growth	27.73	-0.32	-1.2	1.18
Fidelity Invest. Growth	27.73	-0.32	-1.2	1.18
Fidelity Invest. Growth	27.73	-0.32	-1.2	1.18
Fidelity Invest. Growth	27.73	-0.32	-1.2	1.18
Fidelity Invest. Growth	27.73	-0.32	-1.2	1.18
Fidelity Invest. Growth	27.73	-0.32	-1.2	1.18
Fidelity Invest. Growth	27.73	-0.32	-1.2	1.18
Fidelity Invest. Growth	27.73	-0.32	-1.2	1.18
Fidelity Invest. Growth	27.73	-0.32	-1.2	1.18

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Japanese yen (March 19)	102.00
South Korean won (March 17)	979.00
Euro costs (March 17)	\$1.3774
Dollar buys (March 17)	\$0.7276
British pound (March 17)	\$1.98
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Bahraini)	0.377
British pound	\$1.9122
Canada (Canadian)	0.6465
Denmark (Danish)	1.5531
Hong Kong (Hong Kong)	\$1.341/0.765
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.793
Hungary (Hungarian)	19.36
Iceland (Icelandic)	57.30
Japan (Yen)	106.12
Kuwait (Kuwaiti)	0.2910
Norway (Norwegian)	6.6912
Philippines (Philippine)	53.80
Saudi Arabia (Saudi)	3.7599
South Korea (Won)	1,000.32
Switzerland (Swiss)	0.6465
Thailand (Baht)	34.43
U.S. (New York)	1.0000
(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance.)	
Netherlands and the United Kingdom	
For notional currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany with cash or your local military banking facility, commercial rates are interlocking with your local military banking facility. All figures are foreign currency per U.S. dollar, except for the British pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro).	

PRECIOUS METALS	
Gold	\$433.70
Silver	\$7.45
INTEREST RATES	
Prime rate	5.50
Discount rate	2.50
90-day Treasury bill	2.50
3-month bill	2.75
6-month bill	2.75
1-year bill	2.75
30-year Treasury bond	5.50
10-year Treasury note	5.50
5-year Treasury note	5.50
1-year Treasury note	5.50
3-month Treasury note	5.50
6-month Treasury note	5.50
9-month Treasury note	5.50
12-month Treasury note	5.50
15-month Treasury note	5.50
18-month Treasury note	5.50
21-month Treasury note	5.50
24-month Treasury note	5.50
27-month Treasury note	5.50
30-month Treasury note	5.50
33-month Treasury note	5.50
36-month Treasury note	5.50
39-month Treasury note	5.50
42-month Treasury note	5.50
45-month Treasury note	5.50
48-month Treasury note	5.50
51-month Treasury note	5.50
54-month Treasury note	5.50
57-month Treasury note	5.50
60-month Treasury note	5.50
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69-month Treasury note	5.50
72-month Treasury note	5.50
75-month Treasury note	5.50
78-month Treasury note	5.50
81-month Treasury note	5.50
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531-month Treasury note	5.50
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579-month Treasury note	5.50
582-month Treasury note	5.50
585-month Treasury note	5.50
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621-month Treasury note	5.50
624-month Treasury note	5.50
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630-month Treasury note	5.50
633-month Treasury note	5.50
636-month Treasury note	5.50
639-month Treasury note	5.50
642-month Treasury note	5.50
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672-month Treasury note	5.50
675-month Treasury note	5.50
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687-month Treasury note	5.50
690-month Treasury note	5.50
693-month Treasury note	5.50
696-month Treasury note	5.50
699-month Treasury note	5.50
702-month Treasury note	5.50
705-month Treasury note	

SATURDAY EVENING / MARCH 19, 2005

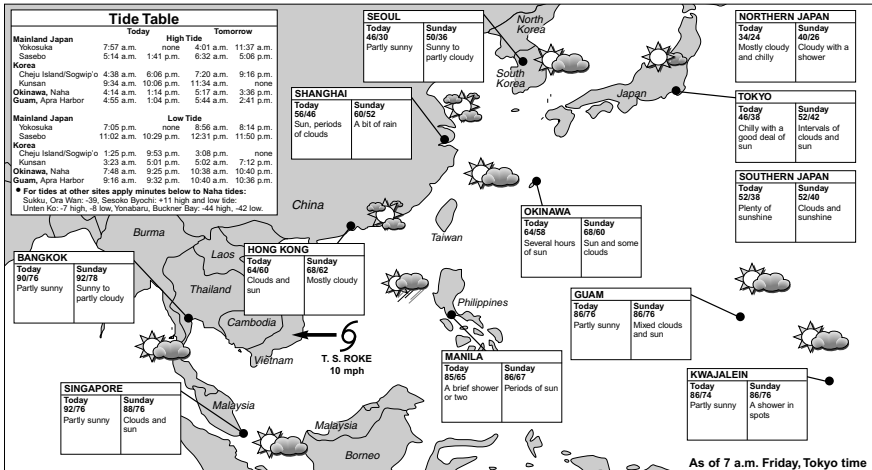
MOVIES • SPORTS

J	6PM	6:30	7PM	7:30	8PM	8:30	9PM	9:30	10PM	10:30	11PM	11:30
6 AFN-P	Headline News	ESPNews	According to Jim "The Truck" Jim loses his truck on a bet (CC)	Half & Half: Doc Dew's interview at a law firm. (CC)	Wife Swap "Agume/Rita" A freewheeling mother trades with a conservative mom. (CC)	Access Hollywood (CC)	Law & Order: "Gurpny" An illegal firearms selling backdrop when two officers are slain. (CC)	Headline News	Saturday Night Live (CC)			
7 AFN-AT	Unfabulous "The Secret" (CC)	Switched! "Online and Brandon" (CC)	Radio Free Roscoe	American Adventure	Access Hollywood (CC)	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	According to Jim "The Truck" (CC)	Half & Half (CC)	Wife Swap A freewheeling mother trades with a conservative mom. (CC)		
8 NEWS	The O'Reilly Factor (CC)	Nightline (CC)	*** SportsCenter	Dateline NBC (CC)	CNN Saturday Morning (CC)	Economy Watch Current state of the economy, indicators, news. (CC)	CNN Saturday Morning (CC)	Economy Watch Current state of the economy, indicators, news. (CC)	CNN Saturday Morning (CC)	Open House (CC)		
9 SPORTS	What Not to Wear "Debbie" A teacher needs fashion help.	The Road to Stardom With Missy Elliott Three aspiring singers begin their road tour.	*** "Lilo & Stitch" "2002: Voices of Doreen Chase" (CC)	Usher Pre-Show "Back to Back" (2004, Comedy) Usher presides over his ex-girlfriend's performance. PG-13 (CC)	Usher Pre-Show "Back to Back" (2004, Comedy) Usher presides over his ex-girlfriend's performance. PG-13 (CC)	Usher Pre-Show "Back to Back" (2004, Comedy) Usher presides over his ex-girlfriend's performance. PG-13 (CC)	Usher Pre-Show "Back to Back" (2004, Comedy) Usher presides over his ex-girlfriend's performance. PG-13 (CC)	Usher Pre-Show "Back to Back" (2004, Comedy) Usher presides over his ex-girlfriend's performance. PG-13 (CC)	Usher Pre-Show "Back to Back" (2004, Comedy) Usher presides over his ex-girlfriend's performance. PG-13 (CC)	Usher Pre-Show "Back to Back" (2004, Comedy) Usher presides over his ex-girlfriend's performance. PG-13 (CC)		
10 AFN-H	Fairly Oddparents "Rugrats" (CC)	*** "Lilo & Stitch" "2002: Voices of Doreen Chase" (CC)	Usher Pre-Show "Back to Back" (2004, Comedy) Usher presides over his ex-girlfriend's performance. PG-13 (CC)	Usher Pre-Show "Back to Back" (2004, Comedy) Usher presides over his ex-girlfriend's performance. PG-13 (CC)	Usher Pre-Show "Back to Back" (2004, Comedy) Usher presides over his ex-girlfriend's performance. PG-13 (CC)	Usher Pre-Show "Back to Back" (2004, Comedy) Usher presides over his ex-girlfriend's performance. PG-13 (CC)	Usher Pre-Show "Back to Back" (2004, Comedy) Usher presides over his ex-girlfriend's performance. PG-13 (CC)	Usher Pre-Show "Back to Back" (2004, Comedy) Usher presides over his ex-girlfriend's performance. PG-13 (CC)	Usher Pre-Show "Back to Back" (2004, Comedy) Usher presides over his ex-girlfriend's performance. PG-13 (CC)	Usher Pre-Show "Back to Back" (2004, Comedy) Usher presides over his ex-girlfriend's performance. PG-13 (CC)		
11 AFN-IM	60/60 "Father of the Bride Part II" "Equilibrium" (2002, Science Fiction) A futuristic lawman rebels against the government. R (CC)	Antiques Roadshow "Memphis" Turn-of-the-century courtesy home head, war-torn by George Kilburn.	American Experience "Murder at Harvard" The disappearance of a Boston physician in 1849. (CC) (DVS)	On Stage at the Kennedy Center The Mark Twain Prize Award and producer Louis Michael presents the 2004 Mark Twain Prize for American Humor. (CC)	On Stage at the Kennedy Center The Mark Twain Prize Award and producer Louis Michael presents the 2004 Mark Twain Prize for American Humor. (CC)	On Stage at the Kennedy Center The Mark Twain Prize Award and producer Louis Michael presents the 2004 Mark Twain Prize for American Humor. (CC)	On Stage at the Kennedy Center The Mark Twain Prize Award and producer Louis Michael presents the 2004 Mark Twain Prize for American Humor. (CC)	On Stage at the Kennedy Center The Mark Twain Prize Award and producer Louis Michael presents the 2004 Mark Twain Prize for American Humor. (CC)	On Stage at the Kennedy Center The Mark Twain Prize Award and producer Louis Michael presents the 2004 Mark Twain Prize for American Humor. (CC)	On Stage at the Kennedy Center The Mark Twain Prize Award and producer Louis Michael presents the 2004 Mark Twain Prize for American Humor. (CC)		
24 PBS	News "Crash of Flight 11" Details of Swissair Flight 11, which crashed into the sea. (CC) (DVS)	Antiques Roadshow "Memphis" Turn-of-the-century courtesy home head, war-torn by George Kilburn.	American Experience "Murder at Harvard" The disappearance of a Boston physician in 1849. (CC) (DVS)	On Stage at the Kennedy Center The Mark Twain Prize Award and producer Louis Michael presents the 2004 Mark Twain Prize for American Humor. (CC)	On Stage at the Kennedy Center The Mark Twain Prize Award and producer Louis Michael presents the 2004 Mark Twain Prize for American Humor. (CC)	On Stage at the Kennedy Center The Mark Twain Prize Award and producer Louis Michael presents the 2004 Mark Twain Prize for American Humor. (CC)	On Stage at the Kennedy Center The Mark Twain Prize Award and producer Louis Michael presents the 2004 Mark Twain Prize for American Humor. (CC)	On Stage at the Kennedy Center The Mark Twain Prize Award and producer Louis Michael presents the 2004 Mark Twain Prize for American Humor. (CC)	On Stage at the Kennedy Center The Mark Twain Prize Award and producer Louis Michael presents the 2004 Mark Twain Prize for American Humor. (CC)	On Stage at the Kennedy Center The Mark Twain Prize Award and producer Louis Michael presents the 2004 Mark Twain Prize for American Humor. (CC)		
25 SHOW	*** "Barbershop" "2003: PG-13" (CC)	Antiques Roadshow "Memphis" Turn-of-the-century courtesy home head, war-torn by George Kilburn.	American Experience "Murder at Harvard" The disappearance of a Boston physician in 1849. (CC) (DVS)	On Stage at the Kennedy Center The Mark Twain Prize Award and producer Louis Michael presents the 2004 Mark Twain Prize for American Humor. (CC)	On Stage at the Kennedy Center The Mark Twain Prize Award and producer Louis Michael presents the 2004 Mark Twain Prize for American Humor. (CC)	On Stage at the Kennedy Center The Mark Twain Prize Award and producer Louis Michael presents the 2004 Mark Twain Prize for American Humor. (CC)	On Stage at the Kennedy Center The Mark Twain Prize Award and producer Louis Michael presents the 2004 Mark Twain Prize for American Humor. (CC)	On Stage at the Kennedy Center The Mark Twain Prize Award and producer Louis Michael presents the 2004 Mark Twain Prize for American Humor. (CC)	On Stage at the Kennedy Center The Mark Twain Prize Award and producer Louis Michael presents the 2004 Mark Twain Prize for American Humor. (CC)	On Stage at the Kennedy Center The Mark Twain Prize Award and producer Louis Michael presents the 2004 Mark Twain Prize for American Humor. (CC)		
26 A&E	The Big House "Florida State at Raccoon" The original maximum security housing unit. (CC)	Antiques Roadshow "Memphis" Turn-of-the-century courtesy home head, war-torn by George Kilburn.	American Experience "Murder at Harvard" The disappearance of a Boston physician in 1849. (CC) (DVS)	On Stage at the Kennedy Center The Mark Twain Prize Award and producer Louis Michael presents the 2004 Mark Twain Prize for American Humor. (CC)	On Stage at the Kennedy Center The Mark Twain Prize Award and producer Louis Michael presents the 2004 Mark Twain Prize for American Humor. (CC)	On Stage at the Kennedy Center The Mark Twain Prize Award and producer Louis Michael presents the 2004 Mark Twain Prize for American Humor. (CC)	On Stage at the Kennedy Center The Mark Twain Prize Award and producer Louis Michael presents the 2004 Mark Twain Prize for American Humor. (CC)	On Stage at the Kennedy Center The Mark Twain Prize Award and producer Louis Michael presents the 2004 Mark Twain Prize for American Humor. (CC)	On Stage at the Kennedy Center The Mark Twain Prize Award and producer Louis Michael presents the 2004 Mark Twain Prize for American Humor. (CC)	On Stage at the Kennedy Center The Mark Twain Prize Award and producer Louis Michael presents the 2004 Mark Twain Prize for American Humor. (CC)		
28 DISC	To Be Announced	Antiques Roadshow "Memphis" Turn-of-the-century courtesy home head, war-torn by George Kilburn.	American Experience "Murder at Harvard" The disappearance of a Boston physician in 1849. (CC) (DVS)	On Stage at the Kennedy Center The Mark Twain Prize Award and producer Louis Michael presents the 2004 Mark Twain Prize for American Humor. (CC)	On Stage at the Kennedy Center The Mark Twain Prize Award and producer Louis Michael presents the 2004 Mark Twain Prize for American Humor. (CC)	On Stage at the Kennedy Center The Mark Twain Prize Award and producer Louis Michael presents the 2004 Mark Twain Prize for American Humor. (CC)	On Stage at the Kennedy Center The Mark Twain Prize Award and producer Louis Michael presents the 2004 Mark Twain Prize for American Humor. (CC)	On Stage at the Kennedy Center The Mark Twain Prize Award and producer Louis Michael presents the 2004 Mark Twain Prize for American Humor. (CC)	On Stage at the Kennedy Center The Mark Twain Prize Award and producer Louis Michael presents the 2004 Mark Twain Prize for American Humor. (CC)	On Stage at the Kennedy Center The Mark Twain Prize Award and producer Louis Michael presents the 2004 Mark Twain Prize for American Humor. (CC)		
29 TFC	(5:55) Game Ka Ka Ba?	(4:55) Mungand Gabi, Bayan	Star Dance	(4:55) Katerina Katerina	(4:55) Katerina Katerina	(4:55) Katerina Katerina	(4:55) Katerina Katerina	(4:55) Katerina Katerina	(4:55) Katerina Katerina	(4:55) Katerina Katerina		
30 CNN+	Lou Dobbs Tonight	People in the News	People in the News	People in the News	People in the News	People in the News	People in the News	People in the News	People in the News	People in the News		
31 GOLF	*** "Bay Hill Invitational" European Tour Weekly	Golf Central	Workshop	Workshop	Workshop	Workshop	Workshop	Workshop	Workshop	Workshop		
32 TLC	(6:00) Trading Places Through the Roof (N)	Town Hall "Town Hall Heads Down South" The team arrives in Louisiana. (CC)	Town Hall "Town Hall Heads Down South" The team arrives in Louisiana. (CC)	Town Hall "Town Hall Heads Down South" The team arrives in Louisiana. (CC)	Town Hall "Town Hall Heads Down South" The team arrives in Louisiana. (CC)	Town Hall "Town Hall Heads Down South" The team arrives in Louisiana. (CC)	Town Hall "Town Hall Heads Down South" The team arrives in Louisiana. (CC)	Town Hall "Town Hall Heads Down South" The team arrives in Louisiana. (CC)	Town Hall "Town Hall Heads Down South" The team arrives in Louisiana. (CC)	Town Hall "Town Hall Heads Down South" The team arrives in Louisiana. (CC)		
34 TOON	Rock Dodgers He-Man and the Masters of the Universe	Town Hall "Town Hall Heads Down South" The team arrives in Louisiana. (CC)	Town Hall "Town Hall Heads Down South" The team arrives in Louisiana. (CC)	Town Hall "Town Hall Heads Down South" The team arrives in Louisiana. (CC)	Town Hall "Town Hall Heads Down South" The team arrives in Louisiana. (CC)	Town Hall "Town Hall Heads Down South" The team arrives in Louisiana. (CC)	Town Hall "Town Hall Heads Down South" The team arrives in Louisiana. (CC)	Town Hall "Town Hall Heads Down South" The team arrives in Louisiana. (CC)	Town Hall "Town Hall Heads Down South" The team arrives in Louisiana. (CC)	Town Hall "Town Hall Heads Down South" The team arrives in Louisiana. (CC)		
35 ANPL	Weird Nature Defense mechanisms and breeding methods of animals. (CC)	Weird Nature Defense mechanisms and breeding methods of animals. (CC)	Weird Nature Defense mechanisms and breeding methods of animals. (CC)	Weird Nature Defense mechanisms and breeding methods of animals. (CC)	Weird Nature Defense mechanisms and breeding methods of animals. (CC)	Weird Nature Defense mechanisms and breeding methods of animals. (CC)	Weird Nature Defense mechanisms and breeding methods of animals. (CC)	Weird Nature Defense mechanisms and breeding methods of animals. (CC)	Weird Nature Defense mechanisms and breeding methods of animals. (CC)	Weird Nature Defense mechanisms and breeding methods of animals. (CC)		
36 COM	Chappelle's Show Music video clips. (CC)	Chappelle's Show Music video clips. (CC)	Chappelle's Show Music video clips. (CC)	Chappelle's Show Music video clips. (CC)	Chappelle's Show Music video clips. (CC)	Chappelle's Show Music video clips. (CC)	Chappelle's Show Music video clips. (CC)	Chappelle's Show Music video clips. (CC)	Chappelle's Show Music video clips. (CC)	Chappelle's Show Music video clips. (CC)		
40 NGC-A	Hornets: A Sting in the Tale	Toyoda World "Wildlife" Gathering	Toyoda World "Wildlife" Gathering	Toyoda World "Wildlife" Gathering	Toyoda World "Wildlife" Gathering	Toyoda World "Wildlife" Gathering	Toyoda World "Wildlife" Gathering	Toyoda World "Wildlife" Gathering	Toyoda World "Wildlife" Gathering	Toyoda World "Wildlife" Gathering		
42 FOX	Boomer (N)	MIXC	MIXC	MIXC	MIXC	MIXC	MIXC	MIXC	MIXC	MIXC		
43 SPOKE	The X-Files "Firewalker" Mulder and Scully probe the violent deaths of several scientists. (CC)	Seinfeld "The Little Rites" Seinfeld and Elaine's relationship. (CC)	Seinfeld "The Little Rites" Seinfeld and Elaine's relationship. (CC)	Seinfeld "The Little Rites" Seinfeld and Elaine's relationship. (CC)	Seinfeld "The Little Rites" Seinfeld and Elaine's relationship. (CC)	Seinfeld "The Little Rites" Seinfeld and Elaine's relationship. (CC)	Seinfeld "The Little Rites" Seinfeld and Elaine's relationship. (CC)	Seinfeld "The Little Rites" Seinfeld and Elaine's relationship. (CC)	Seinfeld "The Little Rites" Seinfeld and Elaine's relationship. (CC)	Seinfeld "The Little Rites" Seinfeld and Elaine's relationship. (CC)		
44 BET	College Hill "It's a Man's World"	Access Granted "Man's World"	Access Granted "Man's World"	Access Granted "Man's World"	Access Granted "Man's World"	Access Granted "Man's World"	Access Granted "Man's World"	Access Granted "Man's World"	Access Granted "Man's World"	Access Granted "Man's World"		
46 COURT	Detective "Invisible" A man's life is expected in a man's life. (CC)	Detective "Invisible" A man's life is expected in a man's life. (CC)	Detective "Invisible" A man's life is expected in a man's life. (CC)	Detective "Invisible" A man's life is expected in a man's life. (CC)	Detective "Invisible" A man's life is expected in a man's life. (CC)	Detective "Invisible" A man's life is expected in a man's life. (CC)	Detective "Invisible" A man's life is expected in a man's life. (CC)	Detective "Invisible" A man's life is expected in a man's life. (CC)	Detective "Invisible" A man's life is expected in a man's life. (CC)	Detective "Invisible" A man's life is expected in a man's life. (CC)		
48 STR-UD	Roswell (CC)	Dark Angel (CC)	Dark Angel (CC)	Dark Angel (CC)	Dark Angel (CC)	Dark Angel (CC)	Dark Angel (CC)	Dark Angel (CC)	Dark Angel (CC)	Dark Angel (CC)		
50 LIFE	Plain Truth (2004, Drama)	Plain Truth (2004, Drama)	Plain Truth (2004, Drama)	Plain Truth (2004, Drama)	Plain Truth (2004, Drama)	Plain Truth (2004, Drama)	Plain Truth (2004, Drama)	Plain Truth (2004, Drama)	Plain Truth (2004, Drama)	Plain Truth (2004, Drama)		
51 ABCFAM	Gilmore Girls "Rory's Birthday Party"	Whose Line is it Anyway? "Rory's Birthday Party"	Whose Line is it Anyway? "Rory's Birthday Party"	Whose Line is it Anyway? "Rory's Birthday Party"	Whose Line is it Anyway? "Rory's Birthday Party"	Whose Line is it Anyway? "Rory's Birthday Party"	Whose Line is it Anyway? "Rory's Birthday Party"	Whose Line is it Anyway? "Rory's Birthday Party"	Whose Line is it Anyway? "Rory's Birthday Party"	Whose Line is it Anyway? "Rory's Birthday Party"		
53 HIST	The Little Big Man "The Untold Story"	The Little Big Man "The Untold Story"	The Little Big Man "The Untold Story"	The Little Big Man "The Untold Story"	The Little Big Man "The Untold Story"	The Little Big Man "The Untold Story"	The Little Big Man "The Untold Story"	The Little Big Man "The Untold Story"	The Little Big Man "The Untold Story"	The Little Big Man "The Untold Story"		
57 STR-IM	(4:55) Movie	(6:50) Movie	(6:50) Movie	(6:50) Movie	(6:50) Movie	(6:50) Movie	(6:50) Movie	(6:50) Movie	(6:50) Movie	(6:50) Movie		
58 ADV 1	(5:30) Aerials of Route	Into the Unknown	Into the Unknown	Into the Unknown	Into the Unknown	Into the Unknown	Into the Unknown	Into the Unknown	Into the Unknown	Into the Unknown		
59 MTV	Making the Band 3	Making the Band 3	Making the Band 3	Making the Band 3	Making the Band 3	Making the Band 3	Making the Band 3	Making the Band 3	Making the Band 3	Making the Band 3		
60 NICK	Danny Phantom "13 Jazs falls for a boy ghost."	Danny Phantom "13 Jazs falls for a boy ghost."	Danny Phantom "13 Jazs falls for a boy ghost."	Danny Phantom "13 Jazs falls for a boy ghost."	Danny Phantom "13 Jazs falls for a boy ghost."	Danny Phantom "13 Jazs falls for a boy ghost."	Danny Phantom "13 Jazs falls for a boy ghost."	Danny Phantom "13 Jazs falls for a boy ghost."	Danny Phantom "13 Jazs falls for a boy ghost."	Danny Phantom "13 Jazs falls for a boy ghost."		

JAPAN TV	WOWOW	MTV
Afternoon 1:00 Traditional Arts of Japan: Bunraku (3) 2:30 World Figure Skating Championships Highlights (6) 3:15 Grand Prix: The 7th Day (1) 3:30 Japan Pro Ball Exhibition Game - Yomiuri Giants vs. Orix BlueWave (4) Evening 7:00 Japan Handball League: Playoff (42) 7:00 News (1) 7:30 Ultimate Fighting: K-1 World GP in Seoul (6) 9:30 World Figure Skating Championships: Ladies' Free (6) 11:00 W-11 (1) 12:00 Grand Sumo Digest (1) 2:15 U.S. Movie (2001): The Pledge (2:30/16) 2:15 U.S. Grand Prix: The 2nd Round, Malaysia-GP Preliminary (6) 2:30 Soccer: Serie A - Reggina vs. Messina (4)	Evening 9:10 CNN News 9:20 Grand Sumo Digest 12:10 JBL: Men's Basketball: Final, 1st Game, Asian Sea Hornets vs. Toshiba Brave Thunders 2:10 NBA: Orlando Magic vs. Seattle SuperSonics 4:10 NBA: Chicago Bulls vs. New York Knicks 5:10 What's On Asia 5:40 Football: Man Utd Afternoon 1:00 Grand Sumo Tournament, 7th Day (Billings) (all after 3:50 p.m.) Evening 7:00 NHK News 1:10 British-French-Dutch Movie (1990): Vincent & Theo (2:25)	Morning 6:00 U.S.-Japanese Movie (1975): The Yakuza (1:57) 8:00 TV Series: Dawson's Creek 9:00 TV Series: CSI: Crime Scene Investigation - Miami 2 11:00 U.S. Movie (1987): Moonstruck (1:40) Afternoon 12:50 U.S. Movie (1992): Red Rock West (1:40) 2:30 U.S. Movie (1997): Face/Off (2:30) 5:00 U.S. Movie (1997): Face/Off (2:30) Evening 8:00 U.S. Movie (2003): Shanghai Knights (2:00) 10:00 U.S. Movie (2003): Matchstick Men (2:00) 12:00 TV Series: Friends the Final Part, 235 12:30 TV Series: Sex and the City No. 5 1:00 TV Series: Sex and the City No. 5 3:40 U.S. Movie (2002): Red Dragon (2:10)

The Pacific Forecast

AccuWeather.com

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As of 7 a.m. Friday, Tokyo time

Extended Forecasts

TOKYO
 Monday: Mostly sunny,
 high 58, low 48.
 Tuesday: Rain,
 high 62, low 54.

KADENA
 Monday: Periods of clouds and
 sunshine,
 high 74, low 65.
 Tuesday: Thunderstorms,
 high 76, low 66.

SEUL
 Monday: Increasing cloudiness,
 high 56, low 32.
 Tuesday: Periods of clouds and
 sunshine,
 high 54, low 28.

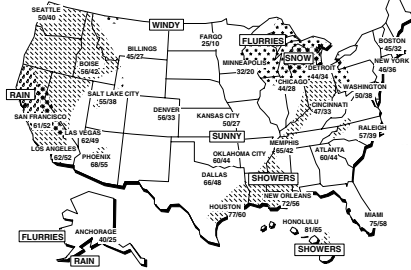
MANILA
 Monday: Partly sunny,
 high 88, low 68.
 Tuesday: Partly sunny,
 high 88, low 68.

HAGATNA
 Monday: Partly sunny,
 high 88, low 76.
 Tuesday: Periods of clouds and
 sunshine,
 high 88, low 78.

Thursday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	54/36	Los Angeles	68/54
Amarillo	52/34	Little Rock	59/40
Anchorage	38/20	Louisville	56/39
Ashville	38/27	Miami	87/63
Baltimore	47/30	Milwaukee	67/43
Birmingham	49/36	Nashville	55/33
Bismarck	29/18	New York	45/34
Boise	55/32	Omaha	58/38
Boston	46/30	Orlando	70/54
Brownsville	68/50	Philadelphia	47/30
Buffalo	39/24	Phoenix	75/54
Burlington	36/20	Pittsburgh	50/28
Charleston, SC	48/38	Portland, OR	57/38
Charlotte	42/30	Portland, ME	40/22
Chicago	42/29	Salt Lake City	51/22
Columbus, OH	51/31	St. Louis	63/39
Duluth	27/13	San Antonio	68/43
El Paso	66/43	San Diego	68/56
Hartford	43/25	San Juan	88/72
Helena	37/16	Tampa	70/58
Indianapolis	56/35	Tulsa	63/43
Jacksonville	60/43	Washington, DC	48/34
Kansas City	64/42	Wichita	63/38

Saturday, March 19



U.S. Extended Forecast

A large storm system will deliver much-needed rain to the Pacific Northwest Saturday. The system will also bring periods of rain to California and showers to Arizona and western parts of the Rockies. Meanwhile, dry conditions will extend across the Plains. Plenty of clouds will cover areas in the north, while some sun shines over the south. Another system will spread south across the Great Lakes and trigger showers across the Ohio and Mississippi valleys. The tail of a cold front will cause thunderstorms to rumble across parts of Texas. Ahead of this system, clouds will increase across the Northeast. A system looming over the Atlantic will bring a few showers to the Carolina coast.

Saturday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	90/76	Iwakuni	49/37
Beijing	58/39	Kadena AB	64/58
Camp Casey	46/30	Kunsan AB	47/34
Christchurch	63/48	Kwajalein	86/74
Diego Garcia	84/74	Manila	85/65
Hagatna	86/76	Misawa AB	36/24
Hanoi	70/60	Osan	47/30
Hong Kong	64/60	Perth	63/65
Honolulu	81/65	Pusan	49/36

Saturday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Acapulco	88/72	Katol	85/57
Athens	68/54	Kiev	22/6
Auckland	74/62	Kuwait	77/55
Baghdad	78/53	London	65/52
Barbados	90/71	Madrid	67/48
Barcelona	64/50	Mexico City	77/50
Berlin	40/27	Montreal	36/22
Bermuda	62/51	Mogadishu	90/76
Brussels	64/49	Moscow	15/4



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Girl injured by tree

HI HONOLULU — A 12-year-old girl was in critical condition this week after undergoing surgery for injuries she suffered when a large tree snapped at its base and crashed through the roof of her home in Manoa, striking her as she slept.

Julia Engle was at The Queen's Medical Center with major injuries to her head and chest, according to a family statement.

Mark Pennington said his niece, a Punahou School seventh-grader, was sleeping when a Norfolk pine estimated to be 70 to 80 feet high fell across Beckwith Street and through the roof into the girl's bedroom around 5 a.m.

"You hope for the best, but you have a whole bunch of fears," he said.

The tree also knocked down a utility pole, causing a power outage in the area.

City hires big-time help

KY OWENSBORO — A California company has been hired to design a water feature for the city's riverfront.

However, Owensboro's design won't be as grand as the fountain in front of the Bellagio Hotel and The Mirage's volcano. City officials hope to raise between \$1 million and \$1.5 million in private funds for the attraction.

Sheriffs to address cuts

OH COLUMBUS — County sheriffs plan to visit the Statehouse to tell lawmakers about funding cuts that have forced some to lay off deputies and cut patrols. Gov. Bob Taft's budget proposal includes a 20 percent cut in funding to local governments.

Woman dies during race

UT MOAB — As Sheri Haymore moved closer to the finish line after running nearly 13 miles, she complained lightly about her legs feeling weak, but nothing more.

With just 100 yards to go in Canyonland's Half Marathon, the Riverton woman staggered a bit and sat down. Emergency crews rushed in.

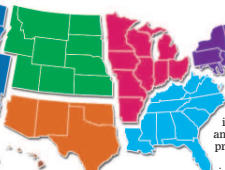
"She asked the paramedic, 'Please let me finish,'" Haymore's sister, Lori Robbins, recalled.

They said no and laid her down on the ground. Haymore, a 41-year-old mother of three daughters, closed her eyes and died from an apparent heart attack.

"She was so determined to finish the race," Robbins said. "She was reaching for her goal."

Warden placed on leave

AL BIRMINGHAM — Donaldson Correctional Facility's warden was placed on leave after warning of "catastrophic circumstances" at the overcrowded state prison near Birmingham. Stephen Anderson listed his concerns in a memo to State Corrections Commissioner Donal Campbell. Three days later, Campbell placed Bullard on 10-day leave. Corrections



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

spokesman Brian Corbett said he could not comment on reasons for the leave.

With space for about 1,000 prisoners, Donaldson holds 1,625 inmates in conditions that have overloaded the prison's sewage system.

Breaking ice jams

ME PORTLAND — Three Coast Guard cutters will head up the Kennebec River to break up ice jams and ease the threat of spring flooding. The vessels will spend a week pushing and grinding the ice between Bath and Gardiner.

Sex with inmate charges

TX SAN ANTONIO — A guard faces felony charges for allegedly having consensual sex with a female inmate at the medical unit of the Guadalupe County Jail.

Albert DeLeon was fired in January and faces the state jail felony charge of violation of the civil rights of a person in custody, improper sexual activity with a person in custody.

He is accused of having sex with a 34-year-old female inmate in December. The inmate is serving a 30-year sentence for trying to hire a hit man to kill her husband, a Seguin police officer, officials said.

DeLeon was indicted by a grand



Saving the stranded

Personnel at the Marine Mammal Conservancy in Key Largo, Fla., lift a rough-toothed dolphin in order to conduct a medical examination. The dolphin is one of about 68 that stranded March 2 off the Florida Keys.

jury last week. He faces up to two years in prison.

"This is a black eye for law enforcement," Guadalupe County Sheriff Arnold Zwicke said.

"However, we will not tolerate that kind of behavior. He used poor judgment and he will have to pay the price."

Authorities learned of the incident by a jail worker who found mail from the woman detailing the sexual encounter.

Zwicke said DeLeon worked at the jail for less than a year.

Fighting for revenue

IN EAST CHICAGO — City officials are fighting for control of millions of dollars in riverboat casino revenue that flows to three community foundations they call a vestige of East Chicago's "old politics." The city's former city controller, recently sentenced to an 8-year prison term for misappropriating city funds, is still paid \$30,000 a year by two of the foundations.

Under a 1994 agreement, the foundations each receive up to 1 percent of the casino revenue to disburse to community organizations.

State House flunks

RI PROVIDENCE — State officials have 90 days to come up with a plan to bring the State House into compliance with the new fire codes.

Inspectors found 32 fire-safety violations beneath the marble dome.

And while some problems have been fixed, officials said the remaining items pose major challenges for balancing fire safety and historical character, public access and security.

The Fire Safety Code Board of Appeal & Review gave administration officials more time — until June 14 — to come up with a plan addressing the other violations.

Inspectors said the State House lacks sufficient smoke and heat-detection devices. And they said something needs to be done about the State House rotunda, because such "atriums" should be separated from adjacent spaces by fire barriers.

Man rides out avalanche

AK HATCHER PASS — A man rode out an avalanche on his skis after triggering the slide on a steep slope in fresh powder blanketing the Talkeetna Mountains.

With spring break under way, the avalanche-prone slopes have rangers warning skiers and snowmachiners to take extra care.

Sandy Tolmie, 44, ended his brief, speedy ride buried in his chest in snow at the base of an avalanche roughly 200 feet wide and 300 to 400 feet long, said state parks ranger Pat Murphy.

The bulk of the avalanche stopped several feet above him, Murphy said.

Had the slide progressed much farther, the weight could have buried and crushed Tolmie, he said. "He managed to stay on his skis the whole time, which is real hard to do. ... He's lucky."



Tense spot Members of the California Department of Forestry and the Fremont Fire Department try to calm a young boy as they consider how to rescue him from Alameda Creek outside Fremont, Calif. Firefighters were eventually able to free the boy, whose leg was caught in the dam. He was pulled to safety after he freed his leg and went over the dam.



Whoa! Hold on, Dad The feet of Nola Muscatello, 2, of Albany, N.Y., slide out from under her as she is pushed around the ice rink by her father, Barry Muscatello, at the Empire State Plaza in Albany.



Happy little 'soldier' Five-month-old Malachi Alaniz plays with his mother, Nellie Alaniz, as they wait at Cooper Field in Fort Hood, Texas, for father and husband Sgt. Esteban Alaniz to return home after serving more than a year in Iraq.



Pink power

From left, Patrick Kerley, 10; Tia Tucker, 10; Hunter Kerley, 5; and Nathan Tucker, 7, tow a large pink slipcover around their home in Brookport, Ill.



Get off my snow!
Callie and Ben, dogs belonging to Wyanette Letzke, frolic in the Amarillo snow.



Shadow play
Matt Olinger trying out the target after fielding a ground ball during Little League tryouts for Huntington County Baseball in Huntington, Ind. Olinger was trying out for the Sandy Koufax League for players ages 13 and 14.



Delicate feeding
A baby eaglelet born in the San Francisco Zoo gets her lunch in San Francisco.

Boy recovering after fall

OH CINCINNATI — A 1-year-old boy is recovering nicely after a three-story plunge from an apartment.

Police believe an 11-year-old boy who was staying at the apartment tossed Lavontia Clark out the window.

When Lavontia awakened the 11-year-old, the boy apparently got frustrated and threw the baby out of the window, police Lt. Paul Broxterman said.

The 11-year-old, whose name was not released, was charged with felonious assault. The baby's mother, Lavontia Clark, said her son didn't break any bones but suffered a gash on the back of the head and some scratches on his arms. Some tree branches slowed his fall, she said, and he landed in soft mud.

"I'm happy he's still alive, amen to that. I'm just trying to stay focused on him, watching him," Clark said.

Commissioner confirmed

MD BALTIMORE — The City Council voted to confirm Leonard Hamm as the city's police commissioner. Hamm will become Mayor Martin O'Malley's fourth commissioner since 1999. Hamm, a 22-year city police veteran, was named acting commissioner after O'Malley fired Kevin Clark last fall.

Welcome for heroes

AR LITTLE ROCK — Thousands of Arkansas veterans of the war in Iraq and their families can enjoy a "Welcome Arkansas Heroes" concert and free lunch May 21 at War Memorial Stadium, the Arkansas National Guard said. About 3,000 Guard members started training in October 2003 and were deployed to Iraq in March 2004. They are all expected to be back in Arkansas by mid-April.

Learning standards set

FL MIAMI — The state Board of Education adopted key learning standards for the voluntary prekindergarten program being offered to all Florida 4-year-olds beginning in August. The standards emphasize reading and language skills. As many as 150,000 new students enroll in the program, which would be the largest of its kind in the country.

New plan for math

NY ALBANY — The state Board of Regents overhauled how schools will teach high school math. Under the plan, schools will teach one-year courses of algebra, geometry and a third course called algebra 2 and trigonometry. The courses will replace two courses that taught the concepts in a more integrated way. The regents will decide when to start the new math approach after a public comment period.

Casino proposal bill

MN ST. PAUL — Gov. Tim Pawlenty pushed his casino proposal as a way to lift up poorer, northern Minnesota Indian tribes. The bill authorizing the casino requires participating tribes to demonstrate they lack money to meet housing, medical care and

other basic needs of members. The Leech Lake, White Earth and Red Lake Chippewa are expected to meet those criteria.

School working on policy

CO BOULDER — The University of Colorado is working on a racial harassment policy after a series of recent incidents. Ron Stump, vice chancellor for student affairs, said he met with several students and campus groups as well as black faculty and staff members to discuss how the school can address racial intolerance. Fewer than 450 black students are enrolled at CU.

Wandering wallabies

KY POOLEE — A strange sight from Down Under startled residents of this western Kentucky community.

Members of the Poole Home-makers Club were at a meeting downtown when they looked out and saw what they thought was a kangaroo.

Nedra Wilson, first to spot the animal, said it hopped up a driveway and around a carport. He then headed south on U.S. 41-A, she said. "I bet it was going 25 mph," she said. "He was really getting it. We haven't had that much excitement in Poole in a while."

Actually, the animal that club members saw was likely a wallaby, a small kangaroo that is native to Australia. There were two of them on the loose after they escaped their pen.

The animals belong to the family of Stephen and Betty Bell. The family moved to Poole about six months ago. Stephen Bell is from Australia. The Bells said the animals escaped. One was later recaptured and the other returned on its own.

Plans for healthy classes

NM LAS CRUCES — New Mexico State University officials have proposed adding a "making healthy choices" curriculum to English 111, a basic course taken by most students in their early semesters. They believe its small classes and discussion format make it ideal for talking about the dangers of party life and violence in relationships. The school has recorded two student deaths from drinking since November.

Doctor convicted

MO ST. LOUIS — An area physician called "Dr. Feelgood" by a federal prosecutor was convicted of nearly 200 federal counts for attempting to dispense more than 2.5 million illegal doses of prescription drugs. From June 1999 through May 2003, prosecutors said Dr. Harry Meyer Katz, 79, illegally sold prescriptions for \$40 each for Vicodin, Darvocet, Xanax and Valium. Katz faces up to five years in prison.

Society endorses hunts

NJ BERNARDSVILLE — The state Audubon Society is endorsing the use of hunts, hired guns and other measures to thin the state's 200,000-strong white-tailed deer herd. The organization says population-control measures must be increased to preserve the state's forests. The group says deer have become an ecological menace.

Stories and photos from wire services

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Simple answer to badge row

As I read letter after letter about this new combat badge (Close Combat Badge) and who should get it, it makes me think that there is an easy solution for all.

It is so simple: If an infantryman is in combat or a cook, the outcome is the same. Everyone is shooting at each other and someone is about to pay the ultimate price if things go wrong. I say give a badge to anyone who is in combat and call it the Combat Service Badge. This includes women and men, all military occupational specialties — including civilians who were sent to combat zones on contract. If they were actually in combat, they should get this badge. The reason is that anyone left out will feel left out, and rightfully so.

Just the reaction to the announcement of this badge shows that something is wrong. It should be fixed, and I think, in all fairness, that my idea is the best. Shouldn't everyone have a chance?

John Mize

Langenzen, Germany

'Truth commission' sought

A judge in Spain, Baltazar Garzon, is trying to create a "truth commission" to investigate crimes against humanity committed during the dictatorship of Gen. Francisco Franco. He also attempted to try the former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet.

Garzon should be commended, and judges in other former dictatorships should follow his lead.

I would like to see the creation of an American Truth Commission that would investigate and publicize the U.S. government's support of dictators (Anastasio Somoza, Fulgencio Batista, Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi of Iran, Saddam Hussein, the House of Saud, etc.) over the years. But I don't think it's going to happen, since both the Democratic and Rep-

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publican parties would be implicated. Isn't that a shame?

Chuck Mann

Greensboro, N.C.

Combat soldiers are special

Since our Army began, support troops have always been harassed and shot at by the enemy. And to those troops I say: It is your job to defend yourself. The enemy knows that he can disrupt our operation by harassing and shooting at the support units.

And he knows that they are not as skilled as the combat soldiers at shooting and killing them. Also, there is rarely a war where the enemy is destroyed or driven back. There are always small units that get behind the lines and attack the support elements. Your mission is: Do your job.

The mission of the combat soldiers (infantry, armor, field artillery) is to go out, find the enemy and kill him. I don't think you want any part of that because, if you

did, you would have chosen infantry, armor or artillery as your specialty.

It takes a special person to put that ruck on, jump in that tank or be part of that gun section, and live and train the way we do. Can you handle living in the woods or desert for weeks and months at a time with no showers, running water, toilets, beds or cots? Up at 0430, bedding down at 2300, humping a ruck 20 miles, loading a 70-pound heat round in a 140-degree turret or firing arty missions knowing that in two minutes or less counter battery will be on your position?

So, if you want that Combat Infantryman Badge or Close Combat Badge that bad, come on over and join us.

Sgt. 1st Class Archibald W. Sims (retired)
Camp Buehring, Kuwait

'Gifted' employees in Kosovo

Many people think that deaf individuals cannot function in the hearing world. If they think like that, they are wrong.

My older sister took care of me and it was she who talked me into joining the Marines. She once told me that if it weren't for her disabilities, she would have loved serving in the military. I felt so sorry for her, but she has self-confidence and has made a wonderful life for herself and now, at age 52, she has three children who can hear perfectly and understand sign language. I'm retired from the military, thanks to her.

I'm working for the Army and Air Force Exchange Service in the area of loss prevention at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo. We have four associates who also break the barriers between the deaf and the hearing. They work in the Power Zone, in self-service and in the warehouse. One is a printer at the concessionaires' area.

When I look at them and see how they work with the customers, you don't have to say a word, it shows. They are truly gifted.

Nelson Delgado

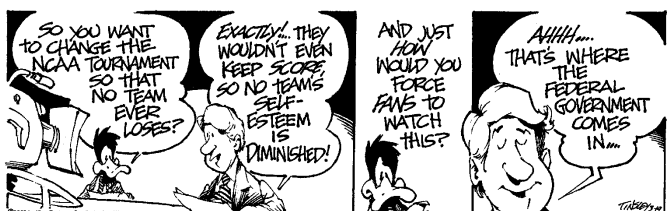
Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Doonesbury



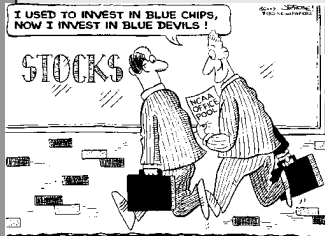
Mallard Fillmore



BY BRUCE TINSLEY

Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



Horoscope

Mercury goes retrograde in Aries. In the weeks to come, it may feel like you and your loved ones have revisited the tower of Babel — suddenly, no one is speaking the same language, and instead, everyone is uttering strange, unassociated sounds. It's not always necessary to understand. Listen as though to music.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 19): It's a brand new, exciting year. Your days will be filled with activities very different from the ones that occupied you last year. Take a trusted partner lead this year this month. Your self-confidence soars because you're proud of the hard work you do in June. An inheritance or legacy helps your financial picture in August. Lucky love signs are Scorpio and Cancer.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Like the producer of real TV competition, you don't always make the decision that's fair. Sometimes, you let kooky people stay in the game because they're more entertaining than the talented ones.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Today is a study in how it feels to want. Your appetite (for all things, not only food) is voracious. To avoid sinking into a rank mood, bring a snack for the voyage. Love with a Libra is tender.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21): If you have not set your sites high enough, you realize this now. Many of you experience a bout of jealousy. Have no fear. This is the way the universe has chosen to show you your heart's desire.

CANCER (June 22-July 22): Don't complain; don't explain. Do talk, plenty about what you intend to do, as this solidifies your approach. Romance brews in the neighborhood — it's a situation worthy of "Desperate Housewives."

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): The rules of the past no longer guide you to the most appropriate course of

action. So it's time to make new rules. Don't beasty. Observe what's really going on before you make a single decision.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):

Life only asks you to do your best, not the impossible. Good fortune comes via a jewel-fingered lady. If you're kind and grateful, the future holds more of this for you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): Regarding a situation that a more ardent person would deem hopeless: There's still time to turn things around. Sort out the supporters from the hangers-on. You have the ability to warm up even an icy-cold people tonight.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): Your greatest investment is in yourself. Doing for others until you are all tapped out just isn't healthy. Set some time aside to focus inward. Someone is afraid of your criticism and thus keeps a low profile.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Be a social animal; networking now does wonders for your finances. However, knowing your real friends is key. A true friend accentuates your good characteristics, which can help you get work or a special date.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Social niceties are all well and good, but you're in a "show me the money" kind of mood. Or, as Dorothy Parker put it so well, "The two most beautiful words in the English language are 'check enclosed.'"

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): It may come to your attention that late fees and penalties have reared their ugly heads into your financial picture. Resolve, on paper, to spend wisely. Careless spending will leave you in a state of constant need.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Instead of vacillating, make decisions, and go with them. It turns out there is no right or wrong, only action and inaction. Your love life thrives when you take risks — especially if a Scorpio is involved.

Creators Syndicate

Holiday Mathis



hangers-on. You have the ability to warm up even an icy-cold people tonight.

Calvin and Hobbes

Jump Start

Zits

Cathy

Hi and Lois

Beetle Bailey

Red and Rover

Better or Worse

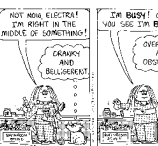
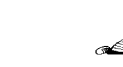
CALVIN, STOP RUNNING THROUGH THE HOUSE!



THE LAM IS ON THE BOOKS, BUT IT WOULD TAKE ALL THEIR RESOURCES TO ENFORCE IT.



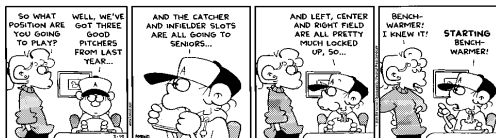
CALVIN!



Peanuts



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



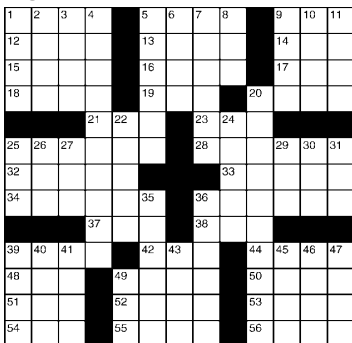
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Hand-warmer
- 5 Arthur of tennis
- 9 Honest politician
- 12 Be an 18-Across
- 13 Leeway
- 14 Put the kibosh on
- 15 Entreaty
- 16 Unruly crowds
- 17 Skater Babilonia
- 18 Lascivious looker
- 19 Compton or Coulter
- 20 Boxer's weapon
- 21 Craze
- 23 Praise in verse
- 25 Bicycle-seat style
- 28 Form in droplets
- 32 Remark of regret
- 33 Obey reveille
- 34 Iota
- 36 Customer
- 37 "The ramports ..."
- 38 Follower (Suff.)
- 39 "Lion King" villain
- 42 Trinity member
- 44 Coasted
- 46 Scepter topper
- 49 Macadamize
- 50 Relaxation
- 51 Costa del —
- 52 Particular
- 53 Succotash bean
- 54 Have bills
- 55 Pound of poetry
- 56 Barney's pal

Down

- 1 Look dejected
- 2 Unattractive
- 3 Take a hike
- 4 Joe Rogan's show
- 5 Fleet
- 6 Any org.
- 7 Rub elbows (with)
- 8 Type measures
- 9 Con
- 10 Prejudice
- 11 Labyrinth goal
- 20 End of an FDR quote
- 22 Bracelet site
- 24 Hands out hands
- 25 Home-run hitter?
- 26 Will Smith biopic
- 27 Singer Cole
- 29 Trivial Pursuit need
- 30 Sailors' substitute
- 31 Favorite
- 35 Lesser industry
- 36 Movie
- 39 Mediocre
- 40 "All I Wanna Do" singer Sheryl
- 41 Competent
- 43 "Awaiting reply"
- 45 Highway
- 46 "Woe—I!"
- 47 Out of bounds
- 49 Chart format

Answer to Previous Puzzle



3-19

CRYPTOQUIP

NG KPNPHLOMP OI W AGRI
XRWCPH OD HPWRR C
AGGK, O DTXXGDP NFP
XHGGI OD OM NFP
XTNNOMA

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A WITCH WERE TRAVELING VERY FAST, DO YOU SUPPOSE SHE MIGHT BE ON A SONIC BROOM?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals T

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RACING STRIPES

A WEEKLY LOOK AT MOTORSPORTS

Cutting corners

Cheating is part of the game in NASCAR

BY JENNA FRYER
The Associated Press

There's an old saying in NASCAR: If a team ain't cheating, it ain't trying. With a murky rule book open to various interpretations, drivers and crews constantly push the limits to see what they can get past inspectors.

"Being creative is my job," crew chief Chad Knaus said when he earned his first major penalty in 2002. "If I am going to get fined and penalized for being creative, then that's just part of it. Besides, the other guys are cheating more than we are."

Maybe so, but Knaus and his peers might start thinking about following the rules to the letter of the law: Knaus and two other crew chiefs were suspended this week as NASCAR cracked down on its culture of cheating.

All three crew chiefs will be allowed to compete in Atlanta this weekend while the National Stock Car Racing Commission prepares to hear their appeals next week.

Knaus was suspended for two weeks and fined \$35,000 after race-winner Jimmie Johnson's car was found to be too low following a victory in Las Vegas. Johnson was docked 25 points, which cost him his spot atop the Nextel Cup standings.

Make no mistake about it, Johnson should consider himself fortunate he was allowed to keep the victory.

NASCAR has a long-standing tradition of not changing the race winner

after an event. The argument is that it is confusing to the fan, who just cheered his driver on to victory, only to go home and read in the next day's paper that his guy actually didn't win.

But in NASCAR's push to stop cheating — the sanctioning body first relied on monetary fines, then upped the stakes to docking points in 2002 before issuing Tuesday's suspensions of Knaus and the crew chiefs for Kevin Harvick (one month) and Kyle Busch (two weeks) — taking victories just might be the next step.

NASCAR might have to become, as word spread through the Nextel Cup circuit about the suspensions, some considered the penalties a slap on the wrist.

"I've got three drivers who would trade \$25,000, 25 points and a suspension for a win," said Chip Ganassi, car owner for Sterling Marlin, Jamie McMurray and Casey Mears.

"You want to stop cheating? Take the wins away."

The problem is, NASCAR never will be able to 100 percent police cheating — because what it deems illegal, a crew chief might view as a loophole in the rules.

"I've got three drivers who would trade \$25,000, 25 points and a suspension for a win. You want to stop cheating? Take the wins away."

Chip Ganassi

Car owner for Nextel Cup drivers Sterling Marlin, Jamie McMurray and Casey Mears

The late Smokey Yunkick was the master of massaging the rule book, maintaining that if something was not specifically outlawed, it was assumed to be legal. It led to a decades-long feud between Yunkick and NASCAR's ruling France family.

In one of the most notorious Yunkick stories, NASCAR questioned the fuel mileage of one of his cars after rivals accused him of having an oversized fuel tank. NASCAR removed the fuel tank, and after a heated argument, Yunkick climbed into his car and drove it away without a fuel tank.

Now that Brian France, grandson of NASCAR founder Bill France, is running the sport, he's more interested in integrity than the tradition of teams trying to pull a fast one over on inspectors.

"Anybody is free to be as aggressive against the line as they want to be, that's their job — to go all the way to the line but still be in compliance," France said. "If they miscalculate, even in the smallest way, we have to address it to maintain the credibility of the rules process."

Car owner Rick Hendrick has maintained that the penalties against Knaus and Busch crew chief Alan Gustafson were too harsh and he is appealing. So is Childress, even though Berrier told reporters that his boss encourages him to tweak the rules.

But at least one driver said NASCAR is finally on the right track.

"It's getting to the point where NASCAR doesn't want to see people cheating. They want it to be fair for everybody, which I think is great," said 2000 series champion Bobby Labonte. "By NASCAR taking points away and fining them and giving them suspensions, it keeps escalating."

"It's going to get to a point where everybody says this is way too much. Is it too much right now? No, but it's taking steps to get to people's attention, I guess."

NEXTEL CUP

Race 4: Golden Corral 500
Atlanta Motor Speedway
2:30 a.m. Monday,
AFN-Atlantic.

Last race: Jimmie Johnson led a race-high 107 laps and held off hometown boys Kyle and Kurt Busch to win the UAW-DaimlerChrysler 400 in Las Vegas. Johnson, Kyle Busch and car owner Rick Hendrick were docked points by NASCAR on Tuesday for failing post-race inspections.

Last year: A week after the nearly was parked for running too slow, Dale Earnhardt Jr. zoomed by Jeremy Mayfield with 15 laps to go and spirited to an easy victory.

Driver to watch:
Jeff Gordon

The four-time Nextel Cup champion has started the year in high gear, winning four of his last five races. Gordon has been hospitable to Chevrolet's Chevys have won the past four races there and nine of the past 13.



DRIVER STANDINGS

After 3 of 36 races

1. Kurt Busch	510
2. Jimmie Johnson	500
3. Greg Biffert	428
4. Tony Stewart	418
5. Carl Edwards	408
6. Tony Stewart	402
7. Rusty Wallace	395
8. Ryan Newman	389
9. Mark Martin	379
10. Kevin Harvick	364
11. Dale Jarrett	357
12. Mike Bliss	351
13. Elliott Sauter	348
14. Jamie McMurray	345
15. Casey Mears	328

BUSCH SERIES

This week: Aaron's 312 at Hampton, Ga. (Race-delayed, Sunday, 9 a.m., AFN-Pacific or KRCN).

Last race: Mark Martin moved into the lead when Carl Edwards had a flat tire, extending Martin's Busch-record victory total to 47 in the Sam's Town 300 at Las Vegas.

Next race: Pepsi 300, March 26, Lebanon, Tenn.

FORMULA ONE

This week: Malaysian Grand Prix at Kuala Lumpur.

Last race: Giancarlo Fisichella won the season-opening Australian Grand Prix on Feb. 5. Michael Schumacher crashed with 15 laps remaining after leading the race for most of the grid because of an engine change.

Next race: Bahrain GP, April 3, Sakhir.

INDY RACING

This week: XM Satellite Radio Indy 200 at Avondale, Ariz. (Race-delayed, 9 p.m. Sunday, AFN-Atlantic).

Last race: Dan Wheldon led 158 of 200 laps en route to a dominant victory in the season-opening Toyota Indy 300 at Homestead, Fla. on March 6.

Next race: Grand Prix of St. Petersburg, Fla., April 3.

CRAFTSMAN TRUCKS

This week: World Financial Group 200 at Hampton, Ga. (Race-delayed, 10:30 a.m. Saturday, AFN-Pacific).

Last race: Steve Park earned his first truck series win in the American Racing Wheels 150 at Fontana, Calif., on Feb. 6, but his previous victory came with the Nextel Cup series in February 2001, seven months before he suffered a serious head injury at Darlington.

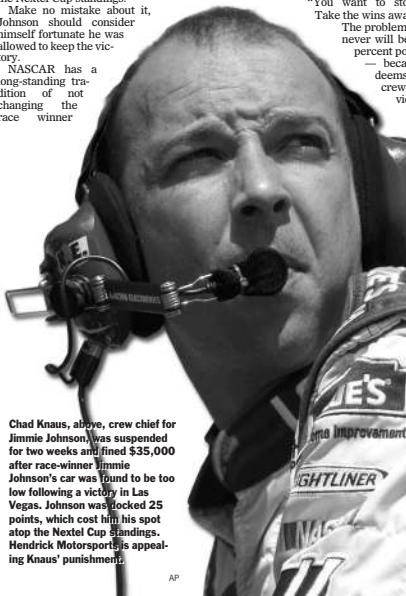
Next race: Kroger 250, April 9, Martinsville, Va.

CHAMP CARS

Next race: Toyota Grand Prix of Long Beach (Calif.), April 10.

Standings for other series on Page 33.

Chad Knaus, above, crew chief for Jimmie Johnson, was suspended for two weeks and fined \$35,000 after race-winner Jimmie Johnson's car was found to be too low following a victory in Las Vegas. Johnson was docked 25 points, which cost him his spot atop the Nextel Cup standings. Hendrick Motorsports is appealing Knaus' punishment.



RB James signs Colts' 1-year offer

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indianapolis Colts' career rushing leader is staying put — for now.

Former two-time NFL rushing champion Edgerrin James signed a one-year franchise offer Wednesday that will pay him a little more than \$8 million this year.

But that won't slow James' efforts to get a long-term deal or seek a trade.

"We think by making the move, it will help facilitate either a long-term deal or we can enhance our chances of working out a trade," said Drew Rosenhaus, James' agent. "We've always stated we are not interested in playing out a one-year deal."

The move comes one week after team president Bill Polian told Rosenhaus that the Colts could not afford to sign James to a long-term contract. Rosenhaus has been trying to work out a trade ever since, a deal Polian told Rosenhaus would not require a first-round draft pick in exchange for the three-time Pro Bowler.

The Colts now are prohibited from reaching a long-term agreement with James before mid-July, or they would lose the franchise tag for the length of the contract.

Pace signs seven-year deal with Rams

ST. LOUIS — Orlando Pace has a chance to finish his career with the St. Louis Rams, and has his new agent to thank for that.

The Rams have made the six-time Pro Bowl offensive tackle their franchise player the past three seasons, and the first two years on a long-term contract went nowhere. Pace fired Kevin Poston last fall



Edgerrin James and his agent are still seeking either a long-term contract or a trade.

when he signed a one-year tender, and his new agent, Kennard McGuire, came aboard two weeks ago.

Pace, the first overall pick of the 1997 draft, signed a seven-year, \$52.9 million contract Wednesday. He'll make \$18 million in the first year of the contract, including a \$1.5 million signing bonus, after the Rams raised their offer significantly.

"I think, for me, this year it was different for the simple fact of changing your representation," Pace said during a news conference Thursday. "The communication was pretty good throughout the past two weeks and I think that really sped the process."

When the Rams first placed the franchise tag on Pace in 1993, his agents asked for a \$27 million signing bonus. The talks stalled.

Browns sign RB Taylor to offer sheet

CLEVELAND — Running back Chester Taylor signed a one-year, \$3 million offer sheet with the Browns, a move that could signal the end of William Green's time in Cleveland.

Baltimore has until Wednesday to match the offer for Taylor. If the Ravens decline, the Browns would owe the Ravens a sixth-round draft pick.

Once the season was wiped out, both sides said all offers were off the table. But the NFL reinstated a proposal without linkage, and gave it a short shelf life.

"De-linked means we're taking some financial risk and exposure," NHL chief legal officer Bill Daly told the AP. "As more damage is done and it becomes more unpredictable as to what our revenues will be, our willingness to entertain and accept that exposure and risk becomes less and less."

There is no question that the league would like to have a collective bargaining agreement with linkage to ensure "cost certainty" for its 30 clubs. That was the basis of the second offer Thursday in which players would be guaranteed 54 percent of league revenues, the source said.

The offers also dealt with issues such as the entry-level system, qualifying offers, salary arbitration, and free agency.

"Last week, Gary asked me how to resume discussions for a new CBA," NHLPA executive director Bob Goodenow said. "I told Gary to bring forward any proposal that he believed would be of interest to the players. Today, Gary gave us two salary-cap proposals. Both proposals were a deal done in time to hold the draft on schedule in June and relaunch the league with new rules intended to open up the game and generating more excitement."

The NHL has its sights set on getting a deal done in time to hold the draft on schedule in June and relaunch the league with new rules intended to open up the game and generating more excitement.

Magic fire coach Davis

The Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Johnny Davis was fired Thursday as coach of the Orlando Magic, who have lost six straight games and are on the verge of falling from playoff contention. Assistant Chris Jent was hired as interim coach.

"We work in a bottom-line business," general manager John Weisbrod said in a statement. "It is our responsibility to do everything possible to create the best opportunity for success."

Davis was dismissed after the 1994 season with assistant coach Ron Ekker hours after Wednesday night's 110-102 road loss to the Los Angeles Clippers, dropping the Magic to 31-33 and leaving them tied with Philadelphia for the final Eastern Conference playoff spot. The team is in the middle of a West Coast road swing, plays Friday at Seattle.

Davis told the Orlando Sentinel he was "surprised and disappointed" by the firing with just 18 games left in the season and the club still trying to make the playoffs.

"It caught me completely off guard," Davis told the newspaper.

Jent, who spent two seasons in the NBA and is a member of the 1994 champion Houston Rockets, became a Magic assistant this season and is a head coach for the first time. He was promoted over assistant Paul Westhead, who coached the Los Angeles



Johnny Davis

NBA briefs

Philadelphians in 1996-97, going 22-60 there.

Iverson hopes to play with injury

PHILADELPHIA — Allen Iverson remained hopeful Wednesday a chipped bone in his left thumb won't cost him any games. "Nine times out of 10, I'm playing Friday," Iverson said after the 76ers practiced without the All-Star Game MVP.

Iverson, the NBA's leading scorer, was hurt in Philadelphia's win over the Los Angeles Lakers on Tuesday night. Iverson said Wednesday he still wasn't sure when the injury happened, though he thought it might have been on a play in which he was fouled by Kobe Bryant.

Coach Jim O'Brien said Iverson was a game-time decision for the Sixers on Friday night at Cleveland. Iverson, who scored 36 points against the Lakers, was listed as day-to-day.

"To a certain extent, it is tolerance of pain, but it's also going to be how the X-ray looks and whether there would be a chance of further injury," O'Brien said.

Cavs fire their coach \$10,000 for comment about Boozer

CLEVELAND — Cavaliers coach Paul Silas was fined \$10,000 by the team Thursday for a derogatory comment he made about Utah forward Carlos Boozer.

Silas made the remark to reporters Monday, one day before Boozer was to return to Cleveland after leaving the Cavaliers as a free agent last summer.

Silas apologized Wednesday.

NHL talks re-open with two proposals by owners

BY IRA PODELL

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — When the NHL canceled the season, the league warned players that future offers wouldn't be as good as those that were rejected.

There was proof of that Thursday.

During a 2½-hour bargaining session in New York, the NHL gave the players' association two six-year proposals: one with a tie between league revenues and player costs, and one without. So far, the union isn't interested in either.

A source close to the negotiations told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity that the "de-linked" offer contained a hard cap of \$3.75 million per team, \$2 million less than commissioner Gary Bettman's final, nonnegotiable proposal made on Feb. 15 — the night before he called off the season.

Back then, the players responded with a soft-cap offer of \$40 million. So far apart as the sides were that the gap appeared wider Thursday.

The NHL, however, did make some concessions. The new offer included a minimum payroll number of \$22.5 million and provided a mechanism to negotiate the cap upward if there was certain revenue success, the source said.

The removal of linkage was what got the players to agree for the first time to accept a salary cap. But a deal was never close to being reached, and a mid-ground number was never offered by either side.

The Associated Press

BOSTON — Paul Pierce and Antoine Walker each scored 24 points, and the Boston Celtics nearly blew a 16-point fourth-quarter lead before pulling out a 110-109 win over the Toronto Raptors on Wednesday night.

The win was the fifth straight for the Atlantic Division-leading Celtics and their ninth in 10 games since acquiring Walker from Atlanta on Feb. 24.

Tony Allen finished with 16 points for Boston, including a pair of important baskets in the final 1:16. Ricky Davis had 14. Jason Rose led the Raptors with a season-high 35 points and Chris Bosh had 20 before leaving with a bruised lower back early in the final quarter.

Rose scored seven straight points, giving the Raptors a 107-106 lead on a driving shot over Pierce with 2:03 to play. Allen broke free inside for a jump, but Toronto regained the lead on Rafer Alston's jumper with 1:30 to play.

Allen's drive made it 110-109 14 seconds later.

Spurs 89, Timberwolves 77: At San Antonio, Tim Duncan scored 25 points and Robert Horrey added 18, his highest total in his two seasons with the Spurs.

San Antonio shot 70 percent in the first quarter and 35 percent after that, but the Timberwolves managed only 39 percent for the game. The Spurs made half of their 14 three-pointers and committed only

eight turnovers, compared to 20 turnovers for Minnesota.

Pacers 103, Jazz 84: At Indianapolis, Stephen Jackson scored 28 points and Indiana hit 37 of 43 free throws. Reggie Miller scored 15 points and Anthony Johnson 12 for the Pacers.

Mehmet Okur scored 16 points and Andre Kirilenko 15 for Utah.

Wizards 122, Hawks 93: Gilbert Arenas had 29 points and Larry Hughes added 23 as visiting Washington had a season-high point total. The Wizards used a 24-2 run in the fourth quarter to win consecutive games for the first time in 13 games.

NBA 100, Bulls 84: At East Rutherford, N.J., Vince Carter scored 30 points as New Jersey kicked a season sweep of Chicago. Jason Kidd had 22 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists.

Bucks 96, Cavaliers 88: Michael Redd scored 32 points and Joe Smith tied his season high with 21 as the Bucks withstood 34 points from LeBron James, extending Cleveland's road losing streak to eight games.

Crazies 88, Hornets 82: At New Orleans, James Posey scored 20 points and Earl Watson scored seven of his 16 points late in the fourth quarter.

Rockets 108, Trail Blazers 77: David Wesley and Bob Sura scored 21 points each to lead Portland to their season's first win. It was the Rockets' first game back home after sweeping a four-game road trip over some of the best teams in the West, including Phoenix and Seattle.

Clippers 110, Magic 102: At Los Angeles, Corey Maggette shrugged off a sore left wrist and scored 31 points, extending Orlando's losing streak to a season-high six games.

three-pointers and committed only

Pacific's fine first half enough to vanquish Pitt

The Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — A 15-point halftime lead was just enough for Pacific.

The Tigers survived a sloppy second half and advanced in the Albuquerque Regional by holding off Pittsburgh 79-71 Thursday in the opening round of the NCAA tournament.

Christian Maraker came back after slamming his head on the floor in the first half and scored 17 points, including a late three-pointer that helped clinch it and get the Tigers (27-3) through the first round for the second straight year.

"Being here last year and knowing what it takes to get a victory definitely helped this team. Hopefully it will help us in the next round on Saturday," said Pacific's David Doubly, who scored 11 of his 17 in the second half.

Awaiting the Tigers on Saturday will be the regional's top seed, Washington, which beat Montana 88-77.

Mike Webb scored a career-high 15 points, going 4-for-4 from beyond the arc to spark a 20-run late in the first half and help the Tigers take a 45-30 halftime lead.

"I knocked down the first and the second and it just kept rolling

after that," Webb said. "I like the big games. Every player lives for that."

Carl Krauser scored 25 of his 27 points in the final 20 minutes while the Panthers (20-9) trimmed the lead to five in the final 4 minutes, but Maraker's only three-pointer of the second half put the Tigers ahead 69-61.

"We just dug too deep a hole in the first half," Pitt coach Jamie Dixon said.

Chris Taft had 13 points and 12 rebounds and Chevon Troutman and Antonio Graves each scored 12 for the Panthers. Troutman, who averaged 15.1 points a game this season, scored just three in the first half.

No. 8 Washington 88, Montana 77: Brandon Ray had 17 points and Tre Simmons 15 as Washington (28-5) charged out to a 20-point lead in the first nine minutes and then played just well enough the rest of the way to win an NCAA tournament game for the first time since reaching the round of 16 in 1998.

Montana (18-13) won the Big Sky Conference to get into the NCAA tournament, but beating the Pac-10 champion was probably a little too much to ask. Led by Kamari Bryant's 24 points, the Grizzlies at least gave it a try, rallying after a dismal start before fading.

Montana didn't stand much of a chance. "We're 16th seed and we won a tournament game — and it didn't help that Washington had extra incentive."

The Huskies finished eighth in the final AP poll, the lowest for a No. 1 seed since the field expand-



Washington's Tre Simmons keeps his eye on a loose ball during the Huskies' victory over Montana in the NCAA tournament Thursday.

ed to 64 in 1985. They took umbrage with those who said the only reason they got the top spot in the Albuquerque Regional was because Kentucky and Arizona slipped in their final games.

Washington scored the game's first 13 points and kept coming at Montana in waves, rotating players off the bench like it was a hockey game, pressuring the Grizzlies into mistakes and pushing the pace at every turn.

Montana didn't score until Davis hit a turnaround jumper 4:10 in and was down 28-8 before the game was nine minutes old.

Washington coach Lorenzo Romar agreed to an eight-year deal with the school on Thursday.

Tiger takes a divot in Bay Hill ramout

By DOUG FERGUSON

The Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Rain halted play in the Bay Hill Invitational after only three hours Thursday, still enough time for Tiger Woods to hit a shot that made fans nearly drop their umbrellas in utter amazement.

He finally looked like them.

With great anticipation over the threesome of Woods, Ernie Els and U.S. Open champion Retief Goosen, the world's No. 1 player led off on the first tee by taking a 6-inch divot with a 3-wood that was lucky to reach the fairway.

"I've never done that before," Woods said of his 198-yard drive.

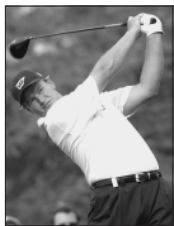
As for a PGA Tour event suspended by weather? Seems like that happens every week.

Nearly 2 inches of rain saturated Bay Hill Club & Lodge, causing the sixth weather-related suspension in 12 events on the PGA Tour this year.

"We're getting used to it," said Sergio Garcia, who was 3-under after eight holes when play was halted.

Joe Ogilvie, who lost in a three-man playoff in the Honda Classic last week, also was at 3-under through 13 holes, the most anyone played in the first round was scheduled to resume Friday morning.

Woods managed to make par after that whopping tee shot on No. 1 and was 2-under through eight holes. Els bogeyed his first two holes and was 1 over, while Goosen hit a tee shot out of bounds on No. 4 and was at 2.



Ernie Els was 1-over through eight holes when rain forced postponement of the first round of the Bay Hill Invitational.

The No. 1 ranking is up for grabs at Bay Hill among Woods, Els and Vijay Singh. Three of the top five players in the world ranking are in the same group for the first two rounds, although they hardly looked like world-class players.

Especially Woods.

The last time he used that new 3-wood in competition, he caught it a little thin on the 12th hole at Doral and still carried it nearly 300 yards to set up an eagle that led to a victory over Phil Mickelton two weeks ago.

This one looked as if it went 300 yards into the clouds.

"I didn't know Retief and I intimidated him like that," Els said with a laugh.

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Women's teams take rivalry on road

By DAVE ORNAUER

Stars and Stripes

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam — The women's teams from Osan and Kunsan air bases and Camp Humphreys didn't exactly sport South Korea post-44 basketball's best 2004-05 records.

But they saw each other enough in two tournaments to form a rivalry of sorts. Each made the double-elimination playoffs in this week's March Madness Open Tournament — and players expressed hope their team would take the title to Korea.

"We think this one's ours," said guard Sandra Hernandez of Camp Humphreys.

"We're hungry for it," Osan's Theresa Moss said. "We need to take it back to Korea with the title. And we can do it."

Their tournament showings belie their regular seasons. Kunsan went 6-6, Osan 4-7 and Humphreys 3-8 in the Korea Traveling League. But something happens when they meet in tournament competition.

"We become rivals," Hernandez said.

Especially galling to the Defenders was watching the Wolf Pack win the season's first Pacific-wide tournament on Osan's home court.

"We still think about that," Defenders guard Kazue "Jo-Jo" Dancer said. "That was our tournament."

Osan gained a small measure of revenge Tuesday with a 68-59 round-robin win over Kunsan.

"We give it an extra effort, especially against Kunsan," Dancer said.

A common denominator is good guard play. Dancer is among five Defenders guards able to handle the ball and shoot. Point guard Anoni Suzuki's shifty, slashing play provides the Wolf Pack's spark. Hernandez brings long-distance marksmanship to a Humphreys team spearheaded by point guard Suz Lopez, who suffered a deep right knee bruise earlier this week, putting her playoffs availability in doubt.

"It will be harder for us now that our guard is out," Hernandez said.

The point guards for all three teams provide "leadership and support," Moss said. "They get it started."



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Guard Jessica Garcia (1) of Korea's Osan Defenders gets fouled by Chava Florendo of Guam's Bud Light on Thursday's at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam. Osan won 81-45 and earned the top seed into the playoffs.

Moss seemed especially optimistic about Osan's chances, given its stable of guards and recent strong defensive play.

"We've come together on defense here, which has won some games for us," she said. "I think we can do this."

E-mail Dave Ornauer at: ornauid@starsandstripes.osd.mil

March Madness Open Basketball Tournament

At Coral Reef Fitness and Sports Complex, Andersen Air Force Base, Guam

Day 4

(x=qualified for double-elimination playoffs)

Men's Pool A

x-Andersen Air Force Base, Guam 4-0

x-Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan 2-2

x-Ace Hardware, Guam 2-2

Naval Station, Guam 0-4

Game 2: Andersen Air Force Base, Guam 4-0

Game 3: Andersen Air Force Base, Guam 4-0

Game 4: Andersen Air Force Base, Guam 4-0

Game 5: Andersen Air Force Base, Guam 4-0

Game 6: Andersen Air Force Base, Guam 4-0

Game 7: Andersen Air Force Base, Guam 4-0

Game 8: Andersen Air Force Base, Guam 4-0

Game 9: Andersen Air Force Base, Guam 4-0

Game 10: Andersen Air Force Base, Guam 4-0

Game 11: Andersen Air Force Base, Guam 4-0

Game 12: Andersen Air Force Base, Guam 4-0

Game 13: Andersen Air Force Base, Guam 4-0

Game 14: Andersen Air Force Base, Guam 4-0

Game 15: Andersen Air Force Base, Guam 4-0

Game 16: Andersen Air Force Base, Guam 4-0

Game 17: Andersen Air Force Base, Guam 4-0

Game 18: Andersen Air Force Base, Guam 4-0

Game 19: Andersen Air Force Base, Guam 4-0

Game 20: Andersen Air Force Base, Guam 4-0

Game 21: Andersen Air Force Base, Guam 4-0

Game 22: Andersen Air Force Base, Guam 4-0

Game 23: Andersen Air Force Base, Guam 4-0

Game 24: Andersen Air Force Base, Guam 4-0

Game 25: Andersen Air Force Base, Guam 4-0

Game 26: Andersen Air Force Base, Guam 4-0

Game 27: Andersen Air Force Base, Guam 4-0

Game 28: Andersen Air Force Base, Guam 4-0

Game 29: Andersen Air Force Base, Guam 4-0

Game 30: Andersen Air Force Base, Guam 4-0

Men's NCAA tournament

OPENING ROUND

Tuesday, March 15
Oakland, Mich. 7 p.m. (ET/PT) 6M @
SYRACUSE REGIONAL
First Round
Friday, March 18
Charlotte (21-7) vs. North Carolina State (19-13)
Connecticut (22-7) vs. C. Florida (24-8)
Minnesota (21-10) vs. Iowa State (18-11)
North Carolina (27-4) vs. Oakland, Mich. (12-10)
Florida (23-7) vs. Ohio (21-10)
Villanova (22-7) vs. New Mexico (26-6)
Wisconsin (24-8) vs. Northern Iowa (21-10)
Kansas (23-4) vs. Bucknell (22-9)

Second Round

Sunday, March 19
Connecticut/Central Florida vs. Charlotte/North Carolina
North Carolina/Oakland, Mich. vs. Minnesota/Iowa State
Florida/Ohio vs. Villanova/New Mexico
Kansas/Bucknell vs. Wisconsin/Northern Iowa

Semifinals

Friday, March 25
North Carolina/Oakland, Mich.—Minnesota/Iowa State vs. Florida/Ohio—Villanova/New Mexico
Connecticut/Central Florida—Charlotte/North Carolina State vs. Kansas/Bucknell—Wisconsin/Northern Iowa

Sunday, March 27

Championship
CHICAGO REGIONAL
First Round
Thursday, March 17
Wisconsin/Milwaukee 83, Alabama 73
Boston College 85, Pennsylvania 65
Texas (20-10) vs. Nevada (24-6)
Illinois (23-1) vs. Fairleigh Dickinson (20-12)
Arizona (27-4) vs. Utah State (24-7)
LSU (20-9) vs. Alabama-Birmingham (21-10)

Friday, March 18

Oklahoma State (24-6) vs. Southeastern Louisiana (24-8)
Southern Illinois (26-7) vs. Saint Mary's, Calif. (25-8)

Second Round

Saturday, March 19
Boston College vs. Wisconsin/Milwaukee
Illinois/Fairleigh Dickinson vs. Texas/Nevada
Arizona/Utah State vs. LSU/Alabama-Birmingham

Sunday, March 20

Oklahoma State/Southeastern Louisiana vs. Southern Illinois/Saint Mary's, Calif.

Semifinals

Thursday, March 24
Illinois/Fairleigh Dickinson—Texas/Nevada vs. Boston College/Wisconsin/Milwaukee
Illinois/Saint Mary's—Southeastern Louisiana—Southern Illinois/Saint Mary's, Calif. vs. Arizona/Utah State—Alabama-Birmingham

Saturday, March 26

Championship
AUSTIN REGIONAL
First Round
Thursday, March 17
Kentucky 72, Eastern Kentucky 64
Georgia Tech (16-5) vs. Oklahoma 84, Niagara 67
UCLA 66, Texas A&M 60

Friday, March 18

Syracuse (27-5) vs. Vermont (24-6)
Kentucky State (24-6) vs. Old Dominion (18-12)
Wake (25-5) vs. Delaware State (19-13)
Stanford (18-12) vs. Mississippi State (22-10)

Second Round

Saturday, March 19
Kentucky vs. Cincinnati
Syracuse vs. Utah
Syracuse/Vermont vs. Michigan State/Old Dominion
Wake/Delaware State vs. Stanford/Mississippi State

Semifinals

Friday, March 25
Wake/Delaware State—Stanford/Mississippi State vs. Syracuse/Vermont—Michigan State/Old Dominion winner
Kentucky—Cincinnati vs. Oklahoma—Utah

Sunday, March 27

Championship
ALBUQUERQUE REGIONAL
First Round
Thursday, March 17
Pacific 79, Pittsburgh 67
Wake Forest (26-5) vs. Chattanooga (20-10)
West Virginia (21-10) vs. Creighton (23-10)
Washington 88, Montana 77
Georgia Tech (25-1) vs. Washington (27-5)
Texas Tech (20-10) vs. UCLA (18-10)

Friday, March 18

Louisville (29-4) vs. Louisiana-Lafayette (25-10)
Georgia Tech (19-11) vs. George Washington (22-7)

Second Round

Saturday, March 19
Wake Forest/Chattanooga vs. West Virginia/Washington
Georgia Tech/Washington vs. Pacific/Gonzaga/Winnipeg vs. Texas Tech/UCLA

Sunday, March 20

Louisville/Louisiana-Lafayette vs. Georgia Tech/Washington
Semifinals
Thursday, March 24
Washington/Pacific vs. Louisville/Louisiana-Lafayette—Georgia Tech/Washington vs. Wake Forest/Chattanooga—West Virginia/Creighton vs. Gonzaga/Winnipeg—Texas Tech/UCLA

Saturday, March 26

Championship
FINAL FOUR
Saturday, April 2
Chicago Regional champion vs. Albuquerque Regional champion
Albuquerque Regional champion vs. Austin Regional champion
Monday, April 4
Championship

Tide rolled out by a 12th seed

Wis.-Milwaukee is latest to parlay 5th-seed jinx into first-round upset

The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Wisconsin-Milwaukee's players didn't madly chase each other around the floor or do anything extraordinary to celebrate the biggest victory in school history.

The Panthers are above all that. This was business as usual.

"We expected this," forward Joah Tucker said. "It wasn't a big surprise for us."

Wisconsin-Milwaukee, whose players were briefly barred from practicing Wednesday when they couldn't produce their student-IDs, pulled off the first turn of the NCAA tournament, beating Alabama 83-73 on Thursday.

Now everyone knows the Panthers.

Tucker and Ed McCants scored 21 points apiece as Milwaukee (25-5) won its first NCAA tournament game in its second try. Two years ago, the 12th-seeded Panthers nearly knocked off Notre Dame, losing 70-69.

The underrated Horizon League champions finished the job this time, outplaying one of the Southeastern Conference's top programs and continuing a trend of No. 12s beating No. 5s in March. That first-round matchup has produced an upset in 16 of the past 17 tournaments, the only exception being in 2000.

For 40 minutes, Wisconsin-Milwaukee was the team that looked like it came from the power conference.

"This is an atypical team from the Horizon League," Alabama coach Mark Gottfried said.

Kennedy Winston had 20 points and Ronald Steele 16 for the Crimson Tide (24-8), who had hoped to have another run like a year ago when they made it to the round of eight. But Alabama was outplayed by a lesser-known opponent from a little-known conference playing in a friendly arena.

"This is what March is all about," Wisconsin-Milwaukee coach Bruce Pearl said. "We represent the rest of that high non-major level of basketball. These guys feel they can play at that level, and they're getting the opportunity to show it in this tournament."

If anyone has a home-court advantage it is the Panthers, who won here three weeks ago and have four straight victories on Cleveland State's home floor.

Milwaukee, which has won 10 straight and 18 of 19 play Boston College (25-4) on Saturday in the second round of the Chicago Regional.

No. 14 Boston College 85, Pennsylvania 65: Jared Dudley led a balanced attack with 18 points as Boston College (25-4) advanced to a second-round match with Milwaukee-Wisconsin and BC's former mascot, Milwaukee coach Bruce Pearl said. "Our defense," he said, "is to make the Eagles' basketball team as a walk-on and filled in as the feathery mascot for an NCAA tournament game in 1981.



Joah Tucker shoots over Alabama's Chuck Davis during the second half of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's 83-73 victory over the Crimson Tide on Thursday in the opening round of the NCAA basketball tournament.

Penn. (20-9) didn't have a mascot for its big game. Instead, the Quakers came out with fashionable new blue-and-white shoes — a reward for making the tournament and a determination to keep the arena rocking.

Boston College was in no mood for that, however, not after what's happened lately.

The Eagles opened the season with 20 straight victories, then closed with a 4-4 fade that includ-

ed a first-game loss to West Virginia in the Big East tournament. Coach Al Skinner used the unexpected time off to fix a few things.

Evidently, it was time well-spent.

Boston College's defense tightened, holding the Quakers to 33 percent shooting in the decisive first half, when the Eagles led by as many as 22. The only glaring flaw was the Eagles' 19 turnovers, which allowed the Quakers to close in.

Bogut has just enough left to top UTEP

The Associated Press

TUCSON, Ariz. — With a deafening crowd against it, Utah escaped with a 60-54 first-round victory over UTEP in the NCAA tournament Thursday thanks to a brilliant bit of defense by Tim Drisdorn and a critical rebound by exhausted center Andrew Bogut.

With Utah leading 56-54, UTEP's lightning-fast point guard, Filiberto Rivera, drove the lane. Drisdorn stripped the ball away, then was fouled by Rivera. The Utah junior's two free throws made it 58-54 with 15.4 seconds to play.

Jason Williams tried to score inside, but Bogut got a piece of the ball, then saved the rebound as he crashed to the floor. Marc Jackson's two free throws with 5.6 seconds to go sealed a victory that left the Utes 6-0 in NCAA tournament games at McKale Center.

Utah (28-5) has won 23 of its past 25 games.

Bogut, who played all 40 min-

utes, had 24 points, 11 rebounds and four blocked shots, but the Australian 7-footer, who could be the first player taken in this year's NBA Draft if he turns pro as expected,

was just 2-for-4 shooting in the second half and made only four of 10 free throws. Bryant Markson was the only other Ute in double figures with 16 points.

Omair Thomas, one of the great stories of the tournament after overcoming a childhood in which his father and two brothers were imprisoned for murder, scored 24 in his final collegiate game for UTEP (27-8). Rivera added 11 points.

The sixth-seeded Utes play third-seeded Oklahoma on Saturday in the second round of the Austin Regional.

Bogut was magnificent in the first half with 17 points on 7-for-9 shooting, including 2-for-3 from three-point range. UTEP's aggressive defense shut him down for

most of the second half, holding him scoreless for nearly 12 minutes.

No. 17 Oklahoma 84, Niagara 67: Drew Lavender scored 10 points to lead six players in double figures for the Sooners (25-7), who overcame some offensive problems with solid defense that harassed the Eagles (20-10) into 16 turnovers.

"We had to dig in and hang in with our defense," Sooners coach Kelvin Sampson said. "Our offense kind of came and went, but we scored when we needed to."

Juan Mendez led the 14th-seeded Eagles with 22 points and 15 rebounds. But he missed his first 11 shots in the second half and finally made a basket with just over a minute left in his final college game. Fellow senior David Brooks added 16 points before fouling out.

Mendez and Brooks led the game with 1:09 to play and shared a group hug with coach

Joe Mihalich as Niagara fans chanted, "Thank you, seniors."

"That scene is what makes college basketball special," Sampson said. "You don't see that in the NBA. They had courage to come to Niagara and four years later, look what they did."

After trailing by three at half-time, the Eagles got within one on a basket by Alvin Cruz. But then they went cold, going nearly 12 minutes without a field goal as Oklahoma built a 19-point lead.

"We went out there and played hard, with a chip on our shoulder," Oklahoma's Taj Gray said. "That's what increased our level of intensity on defense. We feel like we have a lot of things to prove, like an underdog."

Cruz's eyes were red and Brooks bowed his head during postgame interviews.

"We did something special, we made it to the tournament," said Cruz, also a senior. "I was sad that we lost and our college career is over."

Kentucky slips past E. Kentucky

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — They slowed Kentucky's fast break, shut down the Wildcats on the perimeter and even stole some of their state rival's fans. But the Eastern Kentucky Colonels couldn't stop the second-seeded Wildcats' powerful inside game.

Chuck Hayes and Kelenna Azubike overpowered the Colonels. Each scored 16 points, and Azubike ignited an 8-0 run early in the second half of Kentucky's 72-64 first-round victory Thursday.

"It was obvious from the first half that we needed some energy, somewhat of a spark," Hayes said. "I challenged myself to get every rebound and work my way around my man."

Kentucky (26-5) extended its NCAA record of tournament victories to 94 and is now 37-9 in NCAA tournament games. The Wildcats, who beat a team located only 30 miles away from their Lexington, Ky., campus, will face Cincinnati, a team a mere 75 miles away, in Saturday's second-round game of the Austin Regional.

The Colonels (22-9) weren't about to let the Wildcats coast. Instead, they limited Kentucky to 2-for-11 shooting from three-point range and got within five points in the last two minutes.

The difference was Kentucky's dominant interior game. Hayes and Azubike combined for 15 rebounds, and Kentucky had a 42-24 scoring advantage inside.

Eastern Kentucky hung around long enough in its first tournament appearance since 1979 to cause concern for Kentucky. Matt Witt scored 21 points, Hayes had 12 and Alonzo Hirt finished with 11 points and 14 rebounds.



Kentucky's Chuck Hayes, drives on Eastern Kentucky's Michael Hayes during the second half of their first-round NCAA tournament game Thursday in Indianapolis. Hayes scored 16 as second-seeded Kentucky defeated Eastern Kentucky 72-64.

No. 23 Cincinnati 76, Iowa 64: Jason Maxell had 22 points, nine rebounds, six blocked shots and two steals as Cincinnati (25-7) advanced.

With the 6-foot-7 Maxell repeatedly swatting away shots under the basket and Iowa (21-12) unable to hit from the outside, the Bearcats limited the Hawkeyes to just one field goal and three free throws in the first 11 minutes. Three-pointers by Nick Williams, James White and Arneim Kirkland, meanwhile, sparked a 21-3 run that put Cincinnati in control midway through the first half.

Iowa, down by 18 at one point, sliced it to 35-32 on a three-pointer by Jeff Horner. But Williams hit two three-pointers, Eric Hicks and Maxell each scored baskets and Maxell completed a 12-point Cincinnati run with another basket for a 47-32 lead.

Bonds has second knee operation

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Barry Bonds underwent a second operation on his right knee Thursday afternoon, a setback that makes unlikely his hopes of being ready for Opening Day.

While the San Francisco Giants offered no timetable for the slugger's return, it took the seven-time NL MVP more time than expected to recover from the first surgery on the knee Jan. 31. Bonds' trainer Stan Conte said he would not rule out the possibility of Bonds being ready for the opener on April 5, but said it is "an unreasonable thing" to assume he'll be sidelined past that date.

"It would be pretty incredible, but I've learned with Barry I never say he can't do something," Conte said from spring training at Scottsdale Stadium in Arizona.

The Giants said in a statement that Bonds had arthroscopic surgery to repair tears in the knee, similar to his earlier operation. Both operations were performed in the Bay Area by Art Ting.

Bonds, 40, has "experienced periods of swelling in his knee following an incident when he accidentally hit his knee on a table at the Big Park Feb. 4. Neither rest nor his current rehabilitation program has helped alleviate the periodic swelling," the Giants said in a release.

"It was a big blow to begin with and now it's a bigger blow," manager Felipe Alou said before the Giants headed to Surprise to play the Red Sox in an exhibition game. "Now it's real, he's going to be out."

Conte said the swelling initially

Baseball briefs

was considered a normal part of Bonds' recovery, but when it wouldn't go away he knew something was wrong.

Bonds returned to San Francisco on Wednesday from spring training to be evaluated by Ting, and the process took all day, Conte said. An MRI showed "new tears that had to be addressed."

Bonds hasn't worked out on the field since taking batting practice Sunday. He hasn't played in any exhibition games.

Bonds begins the season with 703 homers, third on the career list behind Babe Ruth (714) and Hank Aaron (755).

Trachsel to have surgery for herniated disk

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. — New York Mets pitcher Steve Trachsel will have surgery to repair a herniated disk in his back and is likely to miss a major portion of the season.

Trachsel will be operated on in Los Angeles by Dr. Robert Watkins.

"This is not what I expected when I left last week to go to New York for X-rays," Trachsel said in a statement released by the Mets. "I thought I would get a shot and be back. At least they know what the problem is. There is no doubt in my mind I'll be pitching again before the end of the season."

Players who have this type of operation normally miss about three months, Mets General Manager Omar Minaya said. Trachsel will spend two weeks recuperat-

ing at his home in San Diego, the Mets said, but Minaya wouldn't speculate on how much time Trachsel will miss. New York will first look internally to fill Trachsel's spot as the No. 5 starter.

Former Red Sox reliever Radatz dies

EASTON, Mass. — Former Boston Red Sox pitcher Dick Radatz, among the most feared relievers of the 1960s, died after falling down a flight of stairs in his home. He was 67.

Radatz, who at 6-foot-5 was nicknamed "The Monster," lost his balance and suffered a severe head injury in the fall Wednesday afternoon, police Chief Thomas Kominsky said.

"It is believed that as Radatz tumbled down the stairs, he struck his head on the carpet-covered concrete floor," Kominsky said in a statement. "Paramedics were unable to revive Radatz, due to the severity of his injuries — severe head trauma."

The death is believed to be accidental, Kominsky said. He said the offices of the state medical examiner and Bristol County district attorney were investigating.

Radatz pitched seven seasons in the majors for Boston, Cleveland, Detroit, the Chicago Cubs and Montreal. His career record was 52-43, with 122 saves and a 3.13 ERA.

His best years were in Boston, where he broke into the big leagues in 1962. He was an All-Star in 1963 and 1964. In four-plus seasons with the Red Sox, he was 49-34 with 104 saves — applied under modern rules because saves weren't recorded as a statistic in those days.

McGwire: Baseball's policy attacked by lawmakers

MCOWIRE, FROM BACK PAGE

"What I will not do, however, is participate in naming names and implicating my friends and teammates," said McGwire, who ranks sixth in major league history with 583 homers.

The hearing came after committee members accused baseball of ignoring its steroids problem for years and then, only under congressional pressure, embracing a weak testing program.

Lawmakers were particularly critical of the plan's penalties, including a provision allowing for fines instead of suspensions. A first offense could cost a player \$10,000 instead of a 10-day suspension.

Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig sat with arms crossed and lips pursed for much of the hearing. He craned his neck to get a better view as the players spoke.

In prepared testimony he planned to give later in the day, Selig defended the steroids policy drawn up in January, saying it's "as good as any in professional sports" and adding that he agreed to shorter bans "on the theory that behavior modification should be the most important goal of our policy."

Baseball had fought attempts to compel the players to testify, but committee chairman Tom Davis, R-Va., and ranking Democrat Henry Waxman of California threatened to pursue contempt charges if they did not appear.

More than four hours after the hearing began, the players walked in one by one as spectators, lawmakers and media in the cramped hearing room fell silent.

Curt Schilling, the Boston Red Sox pitcher who's been outspoken against steroid use, was the first to enter. He sat at one end of the witness table, with Canseco at the other. Palmeiro, Sosa, McGwire and the players' lawyers were in between.

Schilling took a shot at Canseco, saying the former slugger's claims "should be seen for what they are: an attempt to make money at the expense of others."

All of the players offered condolences to the parents of two young baseball players who committed suicide after using steroids.

The parents testified earlier, along with medical experts who talked about the possible effects of the drugs: heart disease, cancer, sterility, depression.

"Players that are guilty of taking steroids are not only cheaters — you are cowards," said Donald Hooton of Plano, Texas, whose son, Taylor, was 17 when he hanged himself in July 2003.

"You hide behind the skirts of your union, and with the help of management and your lawyers, you've made every effort to resist facing the public today," Hooton said.

The group of players included three of the top 10 home run hitters in major league history — McGwire, Sosa and Palmeiro.

McGwire and Sosa were widely credited with boosting baseball's popularity in 1998 when they chased to break Roger Maris' season record of 61 homers.

Canseco, the 1988 American League Most Valuable Player, wrote that he used steroids and that he injected McGwire with them.

But Canseco, who retired in 2001, told Thursday's panel that "because of my fear of future prosecution ... I cannot be candid with this committee."

At the hearing's start, almost all of the congressmen shared a personal baseball anecdote or professed their love for the game before leveling their harsh critiques.

The panel's first witness was Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, a former pitcher elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1996. He called the sport's steroid penalties "really puny."

Banning and others said Congress should impose tougher rules if baseball doesn't.

There's no pending bill; Davis and Waxman set out to shed light on the issue.

They've said there could be future hearings. The House Energy and Commerce Committee has raised the possibility of pursuing legislation down the road.



The Baltimore Orioles' Rafael Palmeiro testifies in Thursday's session.

SPORTS



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McWire won't 'name names'

Retired slugger doesn't say whether he used steroids

BY HOWARD FENDRICH
AND RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Retired slugger Mark McGwire told Congress Thursday during a hearing about drugs in baseball that he would not "participate in naming names" of players who used steroids.

McGwire, one of six current or former stars appearing before the House Government Reform Committee, did not say whether he used steroids. In a forewarning to lawmakers, he said his lawyers advised him not to answer certain questions.

"If a player answers, 'No,' he simply will not be believed," McGwire said. "If he answers, 'Yes,' he risks public scorn and endless government investigations."

Two current players, Sammy Sosa and Rafael Palmeiro, told the committee they never used steroids. McGwire and Palmeiro were accused of using performance-enhancing drugs by Jose Canseco in a best-selling book that helped prompt the hearing.

It was an extraordinary sight — some of the top names in baseball history wearing business suits on Capitol Hill instead of uniforms on a diamond.

Two top sluggers were not present because they testified in 2003 to a San Francisco grand jury investigating a steroid-distribution ring: Barry Bonds of the San Francisco Giants, and Jason Giambi of the New York Yankees.

In a tense scene, Canseco sat at the same table as the other players as he told the lawmakers he could not fully answer their questions because of concerns his testimony could be used against him.

During a break after the players' opening statements, five of the stars gathered in a nearby room; Canseco went to another.

Choking back tears, his voice cracking, McGwire said he knows

Poll: Most Americans want users out of record books

The Associated Press

By a 2-1 margin, Americans think professional baseball players who have broken Major League Baseball's rules by using performance-enhancing drugs should not be allowed to remain in the record books, a poll found.

The ABC-ESPN poll of 1,019 adults was taken March 11-15 and has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points, and 4 percentage points for baseball fans. Some other findings:

■ Two-thirds said that "such athletes who use performance-enhancing drugs" should not be eligible for the Hall of Fame.

■ Almost two-thirds said Major League Baseball is not doing enough to prevent steroid use in baseball.

■ Two-thirds, 65 percent, thought Major League Baseball should be responsible for creating and enforcing rules about steroid use in baseball, while 30 percent said the federal government should be responsible.

■ Eight in 10 said they are concerned that the use of performance-enhancing drugs by well-known athletes encourages young people to use those drugs.

■ Almost three-fourths said Barry Bonds of the San Francisco Giants should have been called to testify before Congress.

that steroid use can be dangerous and will do whatever he can to discourage young athletes from using them.

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Major League Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig listens to testimony during a hearing on Capitol Hill to examine the use of steroids in baseball in Washington on Thursday. Selig defended baseball's steroids policy, saying it's "as good as any in professional sports" and adding that he agreed to shorter bans "on the theory that behavior modification should be the most important goal of our policy."

**12th-seeded
UW-Milwaukee
makes Alabama
first upset victim;
Utah, Oklahoma,
BC advance**

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**Top seed
Washington
marches on
to face Pacific;
Kentucky defeats
fiesty in-state foe**

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**Bonds likely
to miss
Giants' opener
after second
operation
on right knee**

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Magic fire coach Davis after sixth straight loss

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